

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.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF
UNITED WAY OF LANCASTER
COUNTY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize United Way of Lancaster County on their 100th anniversary.

United Way of Lancaster County, then called the Welfare Federation of Lancaster, was formed in the fall of 1925 with the goal of coordinating and maintaining social service agencies throughout the county. Over the decades, the organization has evolved to meet the changing needs of Lancaster County's residents.

United Way's original goal of coordinating social service agencies has grown and flourished over the past century. Beginning in 1959, United Way of Lancaster County has regularly conducted million-dollar fundraising campaigns to help the community. In 2007, they launched their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax services to low to moderate-income working families. In 2011, they became a part of the Pennsylvania 211 collaborative, the statewide hotline for essential community services.

Today, United Way of Lancaster County assists the community—through funding nonprofits with millions of dollars in grants, partnering with over 100 social service organizations in the county, and mobilizing volunteers to meet critical needs. I am proud that Pennsylvania's 11th District embodies a spirit of generosity, and the United Way of Lancaster County stands as a shining example of that commitment.

Congratulations to the United Way of Lancaster County on 100 years of making a difference.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR BUD
STARKER

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor William "Bud" Starker for his years of public service and dedication to the City of Wheat Ridge.

As a more than fifty year resident of Wheat Ridge, Mayor Starker has long been a pillar of the community. As both a city councilor and a mayor, Mayor Starker has guided the City with steady leadership, including navigating the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and championing efforts to expand housing affordability in Jefferson County and across the State of Colorado.

Beyond City Hall, Mayor Starker has promoted economic development throughout the Denver Metro Area through his work in the private sector. Through Starker Construction, he helped build more than 100 restaurants, including transforming an older property in his neighborhood into West 29th Restaurant and Bar—a beloved local gathering place that stands as a quintessential example of his commitment to revitalizing our community.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Mayor Bud Starker for his years of service and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER OF TRUMARK CREDIT
UNION, MS. KELLY BOTTI

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Ms. Kelly Botti, a respected leader, advocate, and CEO of Trumark Credit Union, whose birthday on November 3rd provides a fitting occasion to honor her outstanding service and dedication to our communities.

Based in the Greater Philadelphia region, Ms. Kelly Botti has built a distinguished career marked by integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to financial empowerment. As CEO of Trumark Credit Union, she has championed innovative approaches to serve the underserved and underbanked, expanding access to fair, transparent, and affordable financial services for families and small businesses alike. Her leadership reflects the very best of what community driven institutions can achieve when guided by a mission of service over profit.

Kelly has also been a steadfast advocate for the credit union movement on both state and national levels. Her thoughtful engagement with policymakers like myself rooted in collaboration, expertise, and genuine care for people, has advanced the cause of financial inclusion in the First Congressional District of Pennsylvania and across the entire Commonwealth and beyond. Through her advocacy, countless individuals have gained new opportunities to achieve financial stability, education, and independence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives, to help me extend my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Kelly Botti for her achievements, her leadership, and her continuing efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

RECOGNIZING NOLA JANE
SALDANA WITH A CONGRES-
SIONAL VETERAN COMMENDA-
TION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to present Nola Jane Saldana of Waco, Texas, with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Nola Saldana is a proud United States Navy veteran, who served nearly 10 years and continues to dedicate her life to supporting veterans and her community. A full-blooded Maidu Indian raised in poverty on a reservation in Susanville, California, she grew up with strong values of respect and kindness, taught by her mother.

Not long after graduating from Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school in River-

side, California, Nola joined the Navy in January 1988. She trained as a welder and served aboard the USS Acadia, and later the USS Dixon as a radiation worker, often as the only woman in her division. Her service took her across the world, including to the Persian Gulf and multiple international ports. She departed the Navy in 1997. During her service she earned the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Sea Service Medal Deployment Ribbon three times, and the Good Conduct Medal two times.

Following her military career, she earned a bachelor's degree in social work with honors from Texas Tech University. She went on to serve in several public service roles in Waco, Texas, including at the Texas Youth Commission, Texas Behavioral Health Network, and Child Protective Services. Since 2007, she has worked at the Waco VA Medical Center as a Mental Health Caseworker for seriously mentally ill women Veterans.

Beyond her professional work, Nola leads numerous Veteran-focused programs as Commander of VFW Post 2148 and volunteers in the community. She supports troop care packages, family assistance, welcome-home events, Veteran services, youth scholarships, and JROTC programs. She is also a member of the Honor Guard and an adult volunteer with the Waco Young Marines.

Recently, she made history as the first Native American female Commander of VFW District 29, overseeing seven posts in Texas. Nola is also a proud mother of four successful children, all of whom have pursued higher education or military service. Nola Saldana exemplifies lifelong service, leadership, and dedication to others. It is with great honor and respect that I present Nola Jane Saldana with a Congressional Veteran Commendation from the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A GREAT AU-
THOR, DIRECTOR, AND BALTI-
MOREAN: JOHN WATERS

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic brilliance of legendary filmmaker and beloved Baltimorean, John Waters, for his outstanding contributions to the film industry. Affectionately dubbed the "Pope of Trash" by William S. Burroughs, Mr. Waters is a renowned author, producer, and director who was honored in 2023 with a star on the iconic Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His unconventional interpretations of the world color his comical and flamboyant films, and he has dedicated his career to what he playfully refers to as "filth" for the big screen. An all-time great Baltimorean, Mr. Waters has left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry. His love for storytelling was developed as a child, putting on puppet shows at children's birthday parties. Through his teen years, he mastered the skills needed to write side-splitting scripts, skills that he would put to the test for the rest of his lengthy career.

Waters' hometown in the greater Baltimore area would become a central character in many of his films. Baltimore served as both the backdrop and the inspiration for much of