

News of Greater Phoenix, preserving a vital forum for community life and donating archives that keep history alive. Their philanthropy is practical and personal: it meets people where they are and lifts them up.

Paul also lives his values through pro bono work. He stands with those without a voice and no means—most recently as part of a team recognized by the federal court for advancing a prisoner civil-rights case to trial. He has served with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, lending Arizona's steady voice to the cause of equal justice.

Mr. Speaker, Arizona is a better place because of Paul Eckstein. He has defended our Constitution in court and in public life; he has protected fair elections and independent courts; he has fought for a free press and for equal justice; and he has invested his time, talent, and treasure to care for children, and educate the next generation.

On behalf of the people of Arizona, I congratulate Paul on 60 years of distinguished service at Perkins Coie. I thank him for his example of courage and integrity, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating a lawyer, teacher, and citizen whose life's work has strengthened our state.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL JOHN BATTISTA AIROLA, USMC, 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 am honored to present retired USMC Colonel John Battista Airola, 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.

Colonel Airola entered active duty at Quantico, Virginia in August of 1955 at twenty-one years of age and served with honor and heroism during the Vietnam War with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions of the Marine Corps. His service instilled not only a sense of pride in his four children but led them all to the call of duty serving as officers in multiple branches of our Nation's military.

Colonel Airola served 9 years in foreign service to our Nation with significant combat earning the following: Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Stars, Bronze Star Medal with combat V, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, Navy Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Pistol Expert (15th Award), Rifle Sharpshooter and Legion of Merit dated May 4, 1987.

Throughout his distinguished military career, he completed Recruit Training in 1955, then moved on into Infantry Combat Training later that year. In 1956, he completed the ANGLICO Basic Course (ABC) followed by Officer Candidate School and subsequent Basic School in 1957. Carrying on with additional training, he completed Duties of a Motor Transport (MT) Officer and Embarkation Duties in 1958. By 1965, he completed additional

training that included Jr. Landing Force Plan Staff II and Nuclear Weapons Orientation. As the war in Vietnam heated up, he completed Amphibious Warfare training in 1968 and the Senior Officer Preventative Maintenance Course by 1972 and later the Instructors Orientation Course in 1975.

After his 32-year career in the Marine Corps, Colonel Airola transitioned his service over to the HEARTS Veterans Museum from its inception. His countless hours of volunteering, setting up museum displays, participating in parades, and educating the visitors and children is nothing short of amazing. Up until the summer of 2025, at the age of 91, John came in to volunteer every Saturday and even when he couldn't attend regularly, he still financially supported the mission of HEARTS.

Colonel Airola is an exceptional candidate for this Commendation. His leadership is paramount and has furthered the mission of HEARTS Museum over the years by starting the local Marine Corps Birthday Celebration each year, helped foster the early days of HEARTS and served on its board of directors for many years advocating for his fellow veterans in addition to his support for the local Marine Corps League, Toys for Tots and Semper Fi Fund. It is this advocacy and impact which lead him to be tapped to serve on the inaugural Congressional Veterans Commendation committee for East Texas.

Colonel Airola has made it his mission to continue to educate our visitors and the children about the pride in service to our country and our Nation's military history. The Colonel is history; the Colonel is an exceptional American Soldier. It is with this level of love of country and his beloved United States Marine Corps and all of its glory and strength that I proudly commend retired USMC Colonel John Battista Airola of Huntsville, Texas to his friends, family, and colleagues, and salute his service to the Marines, his country and Walker County by awarding him the 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AURORA ACTIONAIRES

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Aurora Actionaires, a remarkable milestone for an organization that has stood as a beacon of service, leadership, and community empowerment in Aurora, Illinois, for half a century.

Since its founding in 1975, when three friends, Donna Williams, Martha Hickling, and Caroline Johnson, met at Hoi Peng Restaurant in Aurora on New Year's Eve, 1974, and decided to form a social club, the Aurora Actionaires has consistently demonstrated what committed civic engagement can achieve. What began with a group of eighteen enthusiastic friends wanting a better community quickly evolved into a force for service and empowerment under their guiding motto: We Care . . . We Act . . . We Serve.

Over these five decades, the Aurora Actionaires have lived that motto through their tireless dedication to education, community

development, youth mentorship, and numerous charitable endeavors across the region. They have awarded more than \$200,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and provided assistance to college students in need. They have hosted workshops for parents and students on completing scholarship and financial aid applications and supported eighth-grade graduates attending the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy's SEAMS Summer Enrichment Program, helping young people pursue academic excellence and opportunity.

On their golden anniversary, we reflect on the many lives touched, the students who would not have pursued higher education without their support, families whose neighborhoods have been strengthened through their volunteerism, and civic institutions that have benefited from their leadership and investment. The Aurora Actionaires have built bridges across generations, across neighborhoods, and across divides and have always modeled the belief that progress is shared when we lift others.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have the Aurora Actionaires as part of Illinois' 11th Congressional District. They have demonstrated what it means to transform compassion into action and service into lasting impact, and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their golden anniversary and thank them for their unwavering dedication to building a stronger, more vibrant community for all.

HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLUE WATER HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Blue Water Habitat for Humanity, a remarkable organization serving the people of St. Clair and Sanilac Counties with integrity, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to strengthening our communities through the power of homeownership.

Founded on the belief that every individual deserves a safe, decent, and affordable place to live, Blue Water Habitat for Humanity has never given away homes—it has built opportunities. Through its "hand-up, not a handout" model, it has empowered hardworking families to achieve independence by requiring sweat equity, responsible financial preparation, and a sustainable mortgage. This principled approach has helped countless families put down roots and build brighter futures.

Blue Water Habitat is a community institution. It is locally funded, locally operated, and deeply invested in the well-being of the people it serves. While affiliated with Habitat for Humanity International and Habitat Michigan, every dollar donated stays right here, supporting neighbors and revitalizing neighborhoods across Port Huron, St. Clair, and Sanilac County.

Beyond new home construction, Blue Water Habitat provides critical home repair programs, ensuring seniors, veterans, and families facing hardship can maintain safe living conditions. Its ReStore, run largely by volunteers, diverts

usable materials from landfills, offers low-cost household goods, and directly funds housing initiatives, demonstrating innovation, stewardship, and community partnership.

For 35 years, volunteers, churches, businesses, and civic organizations have come together under one mission: to build stability, dignity, and hope. Blue Water Habitat for Humanity stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a community serves alongside one another in common purpose.

Mr. Speaker, on this milestone anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Blue Water Habitat for Humanity—its leadership, volunteers, donors, and partner families, for three and a half decades of faithful service. May their example continue to inspire service, personal responsibility, and the belief that stronger homes build stronger communities.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL RAYMOND L. HYLAND, JR.

HON. CHRISTOPHER R. DELUZIO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Raymond L. Hyland, Jr., United States Air Force, a resident of Cranberry Township, PA, who is retiring after 36 years of faithful service to our Nation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania following his commission from Air Force ROTC at Kent State University.

After graduating from Kent State in 1989, Colonel Hyland began his dedicated service to our nation. Colonel Hyland served the Air Force in a wide variety of roles over the next thirty-six years, both throughout the country and overseas.

His active-duty years include flying assignments at Vance Air Force Base in Oklahoma, Castle Air Force Base in California, Plattsburgh Air Force Base in New York, and Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota. In 1999, Colonel Hyland transferred from active duty to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard where he served in various KC-135 Operations and Maintenance roles at the 171st Air Refueling Wing in Moon Township, Pennsylvania, culminating as the Wing's Commander.

Throughout his career, Colonel Hyland has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the country. He is a Command Pilot with more than 5,600 flight hours in various aircraft. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Air Medal, Aerial Achievement Medal (four awards), Air Force Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

I commend Colonel Hyland for his dedication to our country and the sacrifices he and his family have made. I thank him, his wife Kim, and their two children, Kathleen and Ryan, for their service and wish him blue skies as he concludes a distinguished career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Colonel Ray Hyland as he retires from the U.S. Air Force.

HONORING MR. PATRICK MORAN'S SERVICE

HON. TONY WIED

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. WIED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional community leader, veteran, and volunteer, Mr. Patrick Moran.

In recognition of Mr. Moran's selfless service and steadfast leadership, he is the recipient of the 2025 De Pere Community Silver Knight Award. Since 1968, the De Pere Community Silver Knight Award has been bestowed upon outstanding individuals nominated by De Pere service clubs, civic organizations or members of the community.

Mr. Moran's decades of service are truly remarkable. It is evident that Mr. Moran has dedicated his life to serving others and has undoubtedly played an instrumental role in the success of several organizations throughout Brown County and Northeast Wisconsin. From his time serving as a Cub Scout Leader and Soccer Coach in De Pere to his over 50 years with the De Pere VFW Post 2113, Mr. Moran's unwavering support and guidance deserves our highest admiration.

In addition to Mr. Moran's community service, his most important role has been a supportive husband to his wife Linda and father to three children, Phillip, Renee, and Nickolas. Throughout his children's upbringing, Pat was a leader that you could always count on—serving as a Cub Scout Leader, Lost Dauphin 4H leader, Soccer Coach, and member of the MBX Motorcycle Club and the West De Pere Snow Owls Snowmobile Club. I commend Mr. Moran's unwavering commitment to Northeast Wisconsin.

Mr. Moran's decades of guidance, support, and leadership in his community deserve the highest degree of recognition. I ask my colleagues to join me to congratulate Mr. Patrick Moran on receiving the 2025 De Pere Community Silver Knight Award. I am proud to represent such incredible men and women who call Northeast Wisconsin home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARLOS ALBERTO LÓPEZ RIVERA

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 17, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of a remarkable public servant, Carlos Alberto López Rivera, better known to his beloved community simply as "Carlitos."

Born on September 14, 1958, in Dorado, Carlitos grew up with the values of hard work, service, and loyalty instilled in him by his parents, Pedro López Maldonado and Ana Rivera. After graduating from José S. Alegría High School and earning a degree in Business Management from the University of Puerto Rico, he could have chosen many paths. But his heart was rooted in Dorado, and he devoted himself to serving the very place that had shaped him.

That calling led him to the mayor's office, where on August 3, 1987, he was sworn in as

the mayor of Dorado. What followed was nothing short of historic. For 38 years, through 10 consecutive elections, Carlitos was entrusted by his neighbors with the responsibility of guiding their community. He transformed Dorado into a thriving center of tourism and development while never losing sight of the needs of working families. He often described Dorado as the "paradise of Puerto Rico, where life is beautiful," and under his leadership, that vision became a reality.

But Carlitos was more than just an astute and skillful politician. He was a man of loyalty, wit, and heart. He had a gift for words, painting images and phrases that stuck in the memory of the people he served. He balanced economic progress with social justice, reminding all who knew him that growth should never leave anyone behind. And to those who knew him best, he will always be remembered for his loyalty. In the hardest and loneliest moments, Carlitos was there, steadfast and encouraging, urging us forward "at full speed and with even greater strength."

Carlitos made history as one of the longest-serving mayors in Puerto Rican history, second only to his contemporary in Manatí, Juan Aubín Cruz Manzano. Yet beyond the records and accomplishments, his true legacy will live on in the people of Dorado, who saw in him not only a mayor, but a neighbor, a motivator, and a guardian of their community's spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Carlos Alberto 'Carlitos' López Rivera reminds us that true leadership is measured not only in years of service, but in the lives uplifted along the way. Our prayers are with his family, and I respectfully ask this body to rise in tribute to his life and service. As we reflect on his legacy, may we honor him by carrying his spirit forward, always pressing on "at full speed and with even greater strength."

The following text is a direct Spanish translation of the statement above:

Mr. Speaker, me levanto hoy para rendir homenaje a la memoria y el legado de un servidor público extraordinario, Carlos Alberto López Rivera, conocido por su querido pueblo como "Carlitos."

Nacido el 14 de septiembre de 1958 en Dorado, Carlitos creció con los valores de trabajo duro, servicio y lealtad inculcados por sus padres, Pedro López Maldonado y Ana Rivera. Tras graduarse de la Escuela Superior José S. Alegría y obtener un título en Administración de Empresas de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, pudo haber elegido muchos caminos. Pero su corazón estaba en Dorado, y dedicó su vida a servir al pueblo que lo había formado.

Ese llamado lo llevó a la alcaldía, donde el 3 de agosto de 1987 juró como alcalde de Dorado. Lo que siguió fue nada menos que histórico. Durante 38 años, a través de 10 elecciones consecutivas, Carlitos fue confiado por sus vecinos con la responsabilidad de guiar a su pueblo. Transformó a Dorado en un centro próspero de turismo y desarrollo, sin perder nunca de vista las necesidades de las familias trabajadoras. A menudo describe a Dorado como el "paraíso de Puerto Rico, donde la vida es bella," y bajo su liderazgo, esa visión se convirtió en realidad.

Pero Carlitos fue más que un político astuto y hábil. Fue un hombre de lealtad, ingenio y corazón. Tenía un don para las palabras, pintando imágenes y frases que permanecían en la memoria de la gente a la que servía. Supo equilibrar el progreso económico con la justicia social, recordando a todos los que lo conocieron que el