many endeavors to benefit her profession and the beloved City of New Orleans, which she called home and its children. During her tenure, Judge Waltzer recognized the shifting demographics of defendants, with many becoming younger and less educated. She saw an opportunity to make a difference in their lives, offering probation with education as a key component. Her belief in second chances was palpable, and it resonated deeply with me.

I am honored to document the incredible career of retired Judge Miriam Waltzer as the Orleans Parish Criminal Court celebrates the official unveiling of the portrait and plaque of Judge Miriam Waltzer that will forever be on display in Section A of the Orleans Parish Criminal Court building.

I am also honored to have witnessed her courageous efforts during my career as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, New Orleans City Council, and Louisiana State Senate. I am often reminded of all the programs she created in the court system as a Member of Congress. So many people's lives are forever changed because of the fight she endured during her lifetime.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GARY REED

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative DAVID G. VALADAO, to honor the life and legacy of Gary Reed, a dedicated educator and advocate for the Porterville community over the past five decades. His numerous contributions have helped expand higher education access in the Central Valley and strengthened the role of community colleges across California's rural communities.

Mr. Reed stayed close to home for much of his education, receiving his associate's degree in business administration from Porterville College in 1966, and attending Fresno State to obtain his bachelor's degree in 1969. He began his career as an educator in Ventura County in the early 1970s, receiving the Ventura Outstanding Educator of the Year award in 1975 for his efforts. Though he briefly left his role as an educator to help his father run Reed & Reed Enterprises in the late 1970s, he returned to earn his master's degree in school management from the University of La Vern in 1979.

Mr. Reed's contributions to the Porterville area are not solely education based. He spent large portions of the 1980s committing himself to public service and helping his community. He selflessly served on the Tulare County Retirement and Pension Board, the Sierra View District Hospital Board, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, the Cal State Bakersfield Advisory Board, the Porterville Education Foundation, the Porterville Chamber of Commerce, and as Director of the Porterville Fair, among numerous other roles.

Mr. Reed was named President of the Tulare Kings Art Council and Porterville Area Business Association, and in 1993, he partnered with Mark Shoemaker and Jeffrey Brookshire to create Reed, Shoemaker, Brookshire Inc., an investment brokerage business that expanded into a national, multi-million-dollar company. These experiences helped him provide oversight for the Foundation's California Community Colleges Scholarship, where he grew their endowment by 76 million dollars and helped them reach 3,500 community college students annually.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Reed served on the Foundation for California Community Colleges' Board of Director. He continued to serve on the Foundation's Investment Advisory Committee until his passing in August 2026.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Gary Reed for a lifetime of service to his community, his impact as an educator, businessman, and community champion, and his ceaseless work for the people of Porterville.

RECOGNIZING LIAH COOK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Liah Cook for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Liah has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Liah, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Liah's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Pomona High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Liah Cook on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT LORI SPENCER (RET.)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Master Sergeant Lori Spencer (Ret.) of Killeen has committed her life to uplifting service members, veterans, and their loved ones. Her enduring passion for others demonstrates the finest traditions of the United States Army, and it is my distinct honor to recognize her with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Over her distinguished military career, Master Sergeant Spencer served across the U.S., Korea, and Germany, earning decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM), Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM), Army Achievement Medal (AAM), and the National Defense Service Medals. Honored as the Fort Hood CSM Elijah King Honorary Retiree of the Year, she dedicated decades of service to her country both at home and abroad.

Today, Ms. Spencer actively supports veterans and military families across Central Texas through guidance, referrals, and advocacy. She serves with the Fort Hood Retiree Council, helps coordinate the annual Retiree Days Golf Tournament, and is a dedicated advocate for veterans throughout the community through several local and national Veterans Service Organizations.

Master Sergeant Lori Spencer (Ret.) represents the premier of Central Texas through her unwavering dedication and hard work. I am forever grateful for Ms. Spencer's service and ask my colleagues to join me in extending our warmest congratulations on her exceptional achievements.

REPUBLICAN VOTE TO BLOCK SEC. HEGSETH'S IMPEACHMENT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today, House Republicans voted to refer articles of impeachment against Secretary of Defense Hegseth to the Judiciary Committee instead of allowing a vote on the floor. This vote is another attempt by Republicans to shield Secretary Hegseth from the accountability Americans deserve. Since Hegseth's nomination by President Trump, I have stated concerns that he was ill-prepared and not fit to serve as Secretary of Defense, and questioned Trump's judgement in nominating him. Sadly, these concerns were justified.

Mr. Hegseth swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States, he has willfully disregarded his responsibility to faithfully execute the laws of the United States. His removal is long overdue, but Republicans have once again refused to hold him accountable. Less than three months after his confirmation by the U.S. Senate, I called on Secretary Hegseth to resign for mishandling classified information when he shared war plans on a phone messaging application. His tenure has been marked by chaos and cruelty, which impacts our servicemembers most directly.

Secretary Hegseth's prosecution of the War in Iran is clearly in contravention of the War Powers Resolution of 1973. Congress has neither declared war, nor passed statutory authorization, and the United States was not attacked by Iran. Secretary Hegseth's actions have left our servicemembers dangerously vulnerable and placed the United States in an expanding regional conflict. Hegseth has systemically dismantled the office and systems designed to mitigate civilian harm in hostilities, and that he stated were ''stupid rules of engagement.'' His willful disregard for U.S. laws is a clear demonstration that he is unfit to serve. His reckless actions have contributed to the horrific killing of civilians in Iran, including at least 120 children. Secretary Hegseth does not get to choose which parts of U.S. law he wants to follow.

From the beginning, I've said that Secretary Hegseth was unfit to lead our men and women in uniform. As Secretary of Defense, he has made America less safe through his chaos and gross incompetence. Republican's refusal to stand up for our Constitution and the rule of law is disgusting. When Democrats take the majority in the 120th Congress, we will hold Secretary Hegseth accountable for his illegal actions.