

grown to a herd of 1,550, including 1,400 milking cows. That kind of growth doesn't happen without a deep respect and knowledge of the land and livestock.

This June, during the Annual Salute to Dairy and Dairy Princess Coronation hosted by the Tulare Chamber of Commerce, the Atsma Family was recognized for their leadership, stewardship, and contributions to both the dairy industry and our local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Atsma Family on this well-deserved honor. Their work represents the very best of the Central Valley's agricultural heritage, and their impact will be felt for generations to come.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF RALPH L.  
WADSWORTH

**HON. BLAKE D. MOORE**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ralph Wadsworth, who passed away on December 25, 2025.

In many ways, Ralph is a prime example of the American dream. Having grown up in Idaho, he became the first of his family to attend college. At the time, he lived in an abandoned Army barracks and took odd jobs to pay for lodging and food. When he married his high-school sweetheart, Peggy, they had just fifty dollars to their name.

Their poverty did not restrict Ralph's ambition and drive. After graduating from college and working for several engineering firms, he ventured out on his own and founded the Ralph L. Wadsworth Structural Engineering company in 1962. This company grew to be successful throughout the country. They engineered and built many high-rise office buildings in Salt Lake City, Utah, as well as many temples for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including most notably the temple here in Washington, D.C.

Ralph prioritized his family, his faith, and his country. He held a deep love for the United States of America and raised his children to recognize the great blessing it is to live in this country. He always recognized the role that his faith and belief in God had in his personal and professional success. Perhaps most importantly, he, along with his wife Peggy, raised seven sons who continue his legacy of success and hard work.

Ralph is survived by his 7 sons, 21 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and express my gratitude for the important contributions that Ralph offered to our state and our Nation.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF WILLIAM WOLPERT HARRIS

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest but most grateful of hearts that I rise

today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of my dear friend, William Wolpert Harris. Bill was an extraordinary person who dedicated a lifetime to improving the quality of life of every child in every community. Today family, friends, and colleagues will gather to share stories and their memories of Bill, highlighting the incredible impact his good work had on countless lives.

Bill graduated with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts from Wesleyan University in 1961 and later earned a Doctor of Philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked for several years in the private sector and served as a visiting lecturer and adjunct professor at several universities. However, it was in 1981 that Bill founded what would become his lifelong passion and ultimate legacy, KidsPac, a group that helped to focus legislators at every level of government on the importance of early childhood education. It was through these efforts that I was introduced to and got to know Bill. Together we worked to shape and, eventually, enact legislation that authorized and funded the United States Child Traumatic Stress Initiative. This initiative has resulted in the creation of a national network of thirty-eight centers focusing on child traumatic stress. Bill was also one of the staunchest supporters of the effort to expand the child tax credit. Over the years, his guidance and advocacy ensured that this policy remained at the forefront of discussion and debate. We were indeed kindred spirits and for more than two decades, under Bill's outstanding direction, KidsPac was a leader and respected voice in the advocacy for policies concerning childcare, prenatal health, and early education.

For Bill, supporting children and enriching their early life experiences was not just a passion but a family occupation. Bill's father, Irving, founded the Erickson Institute as well as the Ounce of Prevention Fund, and was instrumental in the development of the Yale Child Study Center and Zero to Three. Bill's late wife, Robie, was a celebrated children's author, unapologetic defender of free speech, and remarkable advocate for children. Bill and Robie's activism was integrated into every facet of their lives so it is no surprise that both of their sons, David and Ben, both followed in their footsteps. David, taking a page from his Bill's work, has focused his professional life on research and advocacy for policies that address child poverty. Ben, whose interests more mirrored his mother's, is now Clinical Professor at the Psychological Center at The City College of New York (CCNY), which provides low-to-moderate-cost services to the CCNY and West Harlem communities. In this role, and throughout his career, he has worked with a socioeconomically and culturally diverse range of children and adolescents as well as adults.

Bill's dedication to issues concerning children and their health and well-being extended far beyond KidsPac. In 1984 Bill founded the Children's Research and Education Institute and he served on the advisory board of the Child Development Community Policing Program in conjunction with the Yale Child Study Center. He also served on numerous not-for-profit boards and advisory committees, including the Urban League, Wesleyan University, the State Legislative Leaders Foundation's Children's Program Steering Committee and

the National Science Foundation's Review Panel of the Public Understanding of Science Program. Over his lifetime he received a myriad of awards for his work on behalf of children, including the Advocacy Award, Division of Child, Youth and Family Services, from the American Psychological Association; the Dale Richmond Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics; the Leadership Award for Public Service from Zero to Three; and the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Wesleyan University. And just a few short years ago, Bill was honored alongside his son, David, by the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies with its inaugural Public Advocacy Award for outstanding and fundamental contributions to advancing social understanding of trauma.

On a personal note, it has been an enormous privilege to work with three generations of the Harris family—first Irving, then Bill, and now David—to develop and advocate for policies and programs that give children and their families the foundational security they need to learn and thrive. Through their unique understanding that our young people represent the future and that we as a community and a Nation must give them the tools that they need in order to succeed.

Bill Harris was a remarkable man who dedicated a lifetime to improving the lives of children. I am honored to rise and pay tribute to the indelible mark he has left. Today, I thank my dear friend, Bill, for the difference that he has made in this country, and the millions of lives that have been made better through his vision, his passion, and his kindhearted spirit. He has been an inspiration to all of us. I will forever be grateful for the friendship, humor, and generosity he bestowed upon me over the years. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his sons, David and Ben. The world is just a bit dimmer without his presence, and he will be deeply missed by all those who knew him.

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RECOGNIZING AMY ZHANG

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amy Zhang of Morrison, Colorado, for winning Best in Show in the 2025 Congressional App Challenge.

Amy built EnAct: AI Guides, Vision-Impaired Act, an assistive technology app for seeing impaired individuals that describes the user's environment, helping them avoid pathway collisions. Her application uses multiple AI platforms, and was inspired in part by Amy's experience with a friend who is seeing impaired.

This accomplishment is an impressive example of Amy's determination, hard work, and advanced STEM knowledge base.

I congratulate Amy Zhang for her success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain she will continue to show the same dedication and strength of character in all her future endeavors. I am excited to see all she will accomplish.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES R. BAIRD**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I was indisposed during this vote due to a vehicle accident. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 2; YEA on Roll Call No. 3; and NAY on Roll Call No. 4.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JAMES KUNKLE

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of James Kunkle, a decorated World War II fighter pilot, aviation leader, and American hero whose service and courage spanned more than a century.

James Kunkle was born in October 1922 in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, and later moved to California, where he graduated from Beverly Hills High School in 1940. His commitment to service began early, joining the California Air National Guard as a teenager. During World War II, he earned his pilot's wings in 1942 and served as a fighter pilot with the 401st Fighter Squadron of the 370th Fighter Group under the United States Army Air Forces, flying the iconic P-38 Lightning in combat missions over Europe.

On September 16, 1944, during a mission over Aachen, Germany, Mr. Kunkle displayed extraordinary heroism in aerial combat. Despite being wounded, sustaining severe aircraft damage, and enduring an onboard fire, he shot down two enemy aircraft. He successfully bailed out over what he believed to be enemy-held territory, evaded capture, returned to Allied lines, rejoined his squadron, and continued flying missions beyond his required tour. For his valor that day, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Army's second-highest award for heroism in combat.

Following his military service, Mr. Kunkle devoted his life to aviation. He operated aviation businesses, developed airports and airport facilities across California, throughout the United States, and in Guam, and remained an active pilot for decades. He made his longtime home in the Santa Ynez Valley, where his contributions left a lasting mark on the Central Coast aviation community.

In his later years, Mr. Kunkle was honored repeatedly for his service, including recognition at the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in Normandy, designation as an honorary member of the United States Space Force, and the naming of Santa Ynez Airport as Kunkle Field, honoring three generations of aviators in his family. Even after turning 100, he continued to inspire, receiving honors from the Nebraska Air National Guard and being recognized as one of the last surviving pilots of the 401st Fighter Squadron.

James Kunkle passed away peacefully at home on November 29, 2025, at the age of 103. His life stands as a powerful testament to courage, perseverance, and lifelong service to our Nation.

## RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ALICE KITCHEN

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense sorrow along with Missouri's 5th Congressional District, to commemorate the life and legacy of a great Kansas Citian, Ms. Alice Kitchen. The fruits of Alice's advocacy for women, children, and marginalized communities will live on for generations to come. Alice was a force to be reckoned with, stopping at nothing to ensure that others could live free of abuse, injustice, and discrimination. Her undeniable impact will continue to grace Kansas City with inspiration.

Alice's long history of advocacy began when as a high school student, she became involved with Guadalupe Center as a volunteer in the 1950s. As she saw the many families in predominately Hispanic neighborhoods in Kansas City who lacked access to food, running water, and electricity disturbed her, she questioned the morality behind sitting by when others lived that way. After graduating from her Catholic high school, she moved to Encino, California, where she joined the Sisters of Social Service convent where she ministered to domestic workers in Beverly Hills, most of whom were Mexican immigrants. These individuals, she described, were lonely, poorly paid, and isolated. She took those experiences and paved a life of activism. After graduating with her master's degree in social work at the University of California—Los Angeles (UCLA), Alice returned to Kansas City to work in a legal aid office where she helped young, first-time offenders avoid longer criminal records. With a love for social services, she continued her career at Children Mercy's where she served as the director of social services for two decades. Under her leadership, she sought funding for specialized treatments needed by children with medical issues and initiated programs to assist young mothers fight their battles with addiction.

Alice was devoted to bringing light to issues she believed in, and a full-time job was not going to hold her back. During Alice's voluntary night shifts, she established Amethyst Place, a supportive housing program that served mothers and children recovering from abuse, organized neighborhood cleanups as a board member of the Kansas City Housing Authority and assisted young mothers in obtaining health insurance. As a volunteer co-chair of the Affordable Care Public Education Committee in the Kansas City Metropolitan area, she advocated for the expansion of Medicaid and accessible healthcare. In March of 2012, her efforts were recognized, and Alice received the Champion of Change award from President Barack Obama at the White House. Gender equity and advocating for policies that support women was another mission that peaked Alice's interest. During her time with the League of Women Voters and Women's Equality, she was able to educate women voters and bring light to the disparities women were facing within workplaces. Her fearlessness led Jane McQueeney, a friend of Kitchen, to give testimony to the City Council in Kansas City when McQueeney was receiving less pay when working for the federal govern-

ment. Kitchen worked with Kansas City to adopt an ordinance to prohibit discrimination against women and to stop employers from penalizing women with less experience.

When it was time for retirement, Alice saw it as an opportunity to do her evening tasks full-time. At age 69, she traveled to the Mosquito Coast of Honduras on a human rights observation mission. She took her mission on headfirst and investigated bullet holes in boats, houses that had burned down, and wounded villagers with her international activist group, the Cross Border Network. Alice never stopped looking for a way to improve the lives of others or to push anyone to their fullest potential. She lived her life to her fullest potential, and she continues to inspire others to do the same. In fact, she had a knack for finding strengths in people before they did themselves and pushed them to foster their strengths. As a woman who was one in a million, she continued to prove to the people who surrounded her, that they were also just as special.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Alice Kitchen. Her passing is devastating, but the legacy she leaves behind reminds us that no matter how short life tends to be, we can still make a world of difference. While she is not here to grace the community in Kansas City with her valiant voice, or her indomitable spirit, her soul will live on through the extensive and beautiful legacy that she built. The legacy she left has lit fires under enough people in Kansas City, so they can forage through the noise and echo her advocacy, which will keep her spirit alive for eternity.

## HONORING THE RETIREMENT AND LEGACY OF MS. BRENDA SANDERS-WISE

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ms. Brenda Sanders-Wise for her extraordinary life of service, historic leadership, and enduring commitment to preserving the cultural legacy of Tarrant County through her lasting contributions to the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogy Society, and the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum.

Despite facing the harsh realities of segregation, which once prevented her from continuing her education in the very school district she now serves, Ms. Sanders-Wise persevered. She went on to become the first Black graduate of Haltom High School and, years later, made history again as the first Black school board trustee of Birdville Independent School District. Her journey stands as a testament to resilience, courage, and faith in the power of progress.

For more than five decades, Ms. Sanders-Wise has been a steadfast steward of Fort Worth's Black history and culture. As Executive Director of the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, a role she has held with distinction for 15 years, she has preserved irreplaceable narratives, provided educational programming and genealogy workshops for adults and children, and championed the importance of historical truth. Her