

Month Honoree by the National Women's History Project and a National Philanthropy Day "Outstanding Philanthropist." It is not an exaggeration to say that millions of people who will never know her name have and will continue to benefit from her extraordinary life and legacy.

Nancy is survived by her wife Lynn Hays, her children: Grace Nordhoff, Charles "Chuck" Nordhoff, Carolyn Nordhoff Reid and their spouses; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We extend our gratitude to them for sharing her with the world. Nancy's legacy of generosity and kindness will live on for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING GENE FISHER AND HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF VENTURA

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 20, 2026*

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Gene Fisher, whose exceptional leadership and tireless advocacy as Co-Chair and Executive Director of the Regional Defense Partnership have strengthened Ventura County's defense community, bolstered our regional economy, and ensured that our military installations remain resilient and mission-ready. Under Gene's leadership, the Regional Defense Partnership has served as Ventura County's community-based organization supporting our military installations and commands as essential assets to our national security and key contributors to our local economy.

During periods of uncertainty and significant challenges, including threats of base realignment, downsizing, and evolving defense priorities, Gene was a steady and trusted leader who helped ensure that Naval Base Ventura County continued to thrive as the county's largest employer, generating an estimated \$4.6 billion annually and supporting more than 24,000 military, civilian, and contractor jobs.

Throughout his tenure, Gene represented the interests of Naval Base Ventura County with distinction, communicating its needs and priorities to local government leaders, educational institutions, and business partners, while building enduring partnerships among military commands, public agencies, and the private sector. His deep commitment to both the base and our community is evident in his work to ensure that Ventura County's infrastructure, workforce, and expertise continue to meet the evolving demands of 21st century national defense.

Among his many accomplishments, Gene led the Regional Defense Partnership's efforts to expand Naval Base Ventura County from approximately 70 to 110 commands, helped secure funding and legislative support to enhance critical capabilities such as the Center for Maritime Directed Energy Testing, and worked to ensure that Ventura County remains at the forefront of advanced defense innovation and collaboration.

Of particular importance to me is Gene's genuine passion for fostering cooperation and partnership. In addition to his many other community-focused initiatives, he convened monthly joint military—community meetings,

creating an essential forum for dialogue, coordination, and mutual support among base leadership, local stakeholders, and elected officials.

As he steps down from this role, I am proud to join our community in recognizing Gene's 27 years of dedicated public service and his extraordinary contributions to preserving the defense, economic, and technological vitality of the County of Ventura.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I recognize Gene Fisher for his steadfast leadership and for the lasting impact he has had on our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT AND DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 20, 2026*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act District of Columbia Equality Act. This bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for federal funding under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act in the same manner as states. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states and, therefore, D.C. should be treated as a state under federal programs. D.C. has roughly 7,800 acres of parkland, covering nearly a quarter of the city.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act provides funding to states for five distinct purposes: program administration, wildlife restoration, basic hunter education and safety, enhanced hunter education and safety grants and multistate conservation grants. In general, D.C. is not eligible for funding under this Act.

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act provides funding for sport fish restoration, aquatic education, wetlands restoration and boat-related activities. Under this Act, each state receives a minimum of one percent of the total amount apportioned, while D.C. is capped at one-third of one percent.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 'GETTYSBURG OF KOREA'

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 20, 2026*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75 years, as of this month, since the Battle of Chipyong-ni, often called the "Gettysburg of the Korean War."

In February 1951, the Chinese People's Liberation Army and North Korean People's Army launched a major offensive against American and South Korean lines near Chipyong-ni.

American forces, along with the support of French allies, held their ground against relent-

less attacks until February 15th when troops from the American 1st Cavalry Division broke through enemy lines, reversing a monthslong tide of defeats. This victory marked a major turning point in the war effectively breaking the last major Chinese offensive and restoring momentum to the United Nations forces.

I include in the RECORD the following summary of this battle from the February 12, 2026, edition of The Washington Times:

TIDE-TURNING 'GETTYSBURG OF KOREA'  
BATTLE COMMEMORATED 75 YEARS LATER

CHIPYONG-NI, SOUTH KOREA—Chipyong-ni is today a modest, rural village, but 75 years ago it briefly commanded the attention of the free world. For millennial Koreans, the village—now spelled 'Jipyeong-ri'—is famed for the excellence of its makgeolli, a white rice brew.

For military historians, Chipyong-ni is famed for the three-day 'Gettysburg of the Korean War' that began Feb. 13, 1951.

Forty miles southeast of Seoul, U.S. forces, fighting alongside French allies, reversed a monthslong tide of defeats, proving Chinese forces could be beaten.

The battle's 75th anniversary was commemorated Wednesday by local VIPs and troop contingents from France, South Korea and the U.S.

But as the war generation fades, this year's commemorations were the first in living memory without veterans.

And while trans-Atlantic tensions strain NATO's sinews, inter-Allied frictions became obvious during the commemorations.

LOOKING BACK

In 1951, the battle was fought under snow. In 2026, the rice fields were frozen and the weather chill, but snow had stayed off the gray-brown landscape.

Gunfire no longer clatters; artillery no longer thunders. Today's standout sound is the hiss of KTX bullet trains passing along through the little station.

Commemorations took place at a raised memorial overlooking Chipyong-ri's museum—complete with a tank outside. The makgeolli brewery that was the American command post still stands, beautifully restored.

Uniforms included Korean Army dark greens, U.S. Army browns and tans and the jaunty scarlet and blue of the most distinctive contingent—cadets from the French military academy, St. Cyr.

'This battle was a linchpin,' Brig. Gen. Scott Woodward, deputy commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, or '2ID,' the key U.S. ground force in Korea today. 'It turned the tide of the war.'

In 1951, 2ID's 23rd Infantry Regiment, fighting under the U.N. Command banner with the French U.N. Battalion attached, defended Chipyong-ri.

From the memorial, the most striking thing about the battlefield is its size. Four battalions of infantry, plus artillery and over 100 vehicles were compressed by the surrounding Chinese forces into a perimeter a mile deep and a mile-and-a-half wide.

'It's humbling to see the challenges the soldiers faced,' said U.S. Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Milner. 'The terrain forced them to get in close.'

'It must have been intimidating to fight here: You could see the enemy's eyes,' said 2nd Lt. Nicolas, a St. Cyr cadet who, citing academy policy, declined to offer his surname. 'The enemy had the high ground, and much more manpower.'

HOLDING THE 'HUMAN WAVE'

U.S. Col. Paul Freeman, commanding the 23rd, deployed his units shoulder-to-shoulder to prevent infiltration in an all-around defense. Inside the perimeter, his engineers

built a crude runway, cutting reliance on road transport.

These preparations were designed to confront a Chinese tactic that had, so far, been triumphant in the Korean War.

In 'human wave' attacks, Chinese units massed in front of U.N. positions and assaulted frontally. At the same time, other units infiltrated around the flanks, establishing roadblocks and ambush sites deep in the rear.

Like water, the Chinese forces aimed to roll over, around and behind U.N. units. The tactic had driven all before it.

In December 1950, U.N. forces had retreated from North Korea. A month later, Seoul fell. By February 1951, the war hung in the balance.

Chipyong-ri commanded a key road-rail transport junction. Freeman was ordered to hold firm.

Overlooking him, Chinese officers massed three regiments against the 23rd. What happened next passed into legend.

Chinese troops crawled through mines, under wire, up to fighting positions, initiating combat of the most traumatic kind: Extreme close range.

Massive 8-inch howitzers were depressed, shooting directly into the assault waves. U.S. aircraft dropped lines of flares for illumination, napalm incendiaries for effect.

French troops used a hand-cranked siren to overwhelm the bugles the Chinese used as signaling devices, then unleashed bayonet counterattacks.

The perimeter held the first night. On the second, Chinese penetrated the south. The battle raged all day as more Chinese troops were fed into the breach, swarming inside the perimeter. Just as darkness fell on Feb. 16, U.S. tanks appeared through a pass in the southern ridge: A relief force from 1st Cavalry Division. Caught on flat ground without cover, Chinese soldiers were mowed down by tank fire. They fled.

Freeman and his men had held.

Chipyong-ri was likened to Gettysburg, though smaller in scale than the Civil War epic.

Chinese after-action reports indicated shock. Per precedent, they had expected the Americans to retreat, and had been stunned by the armored intervention.

All units—French included—earned U.S. Army Distinguished Unit Citations.

#### PASSING GENERATION, NEW ANIMOSITY

Absent from the 2026 commemorations were the veterans. With the Korean War ending in 1953 living memories are evaporating—making commemorations doubly important.

'Telling stories, getting the soldiers to learn their history, builds cohesion,' Gen. Woodward said.

Though drones, long-range fires and satellite communications have changed combat, the core lessons of Chipyong-ri endure.

'The character of war has changed, the nature of war has not,' he continued. 'Whether it's with axes or drones, soldiers have got to have guts and determination, and leaders have got to inspire.'

Unlike World War II and the Vietnam War, the Korean War, dubbed 'The Forgotten War' hasn't resonated in popular culture. A bare handful of Korean actions caught Hollywood's attention, notably the Incheon amphibious landing, and the breakout from Chosin Reservoir. Chipyong-ri does not make the list.

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Steve Tharp, who conducts Korean War tours and calls himself passionate about the battle, bemoaned that. The Marine Corps, which fought at Incheon and Chosin, outsmarts the Army in public relations, he sniffed.

Chipyong-ri, he said, is custom-built for film, with the dramatic armored interven-

tion being 'like the cavalry arriving in a Western.' In 2026, it was America's allies who felt overlooked.

French diplomats, officers and cadets attended the U.S. ceremony. In a subsequent commemoration, at the nearby French memorial, no U.S. troops or officials appeared.

'I am a little perplexed about what they were thinking,' said retired Col. Alain Nass, a former defense attache at Seoul's French Embassy. 'They were not here with us today. Why?'

He noted that 2ID was originally activated in France, during World War I. Every year, it is commemorated by French officialdom there.

'We have the U.S. flag here,' he said, pointing to the Stars and Stripes engraved alongside the Tricolor on the French battle memorial. 'It's important we keep this relationship alive: It's about comradeship.'

#### HONORING RYAN WILSON, LAPEER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

##### HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 20, 2026*

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ryan Wilson, recipient of the Lapeer Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award, whose generosity and dedication to service have strengthened families, schools, and community organizations throughout Lapeer County.

Ryan has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to local students and families by helping pay down school lunch debt in the North Branch, Almont, and Imlay City School Districts. He actively supports school and community fundraisers by selling tickets, hosting bottle drives, and donating gift cards, food, and meat to organizations such as The Refuge and numerous school programs.

Ryan maintains a shelf stocked with free, nonperishable food items available to anyone in need—no questions asked. He sponsors youth and adult baseball teams, matches donations to Project Graduation up to \$1,000, prepares and donates meals for marching band students, and supports local farmers by offering space to sell their produce at no cost. In addition, he regularly volunteers at school events across Lapeer County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ryan Wilson for his outstanding service and unwavering commitment to the Lapeer community.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COLONEL GIL CORONADO

##### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 20, 2026*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Gil Coronado, who passed away on Saturday, February 7, 2026. Known as the "Padrino" of Hispanic Heritage Month, Colonel Coronado was a champion for our Nation's Hispanic communities. He is survived by his wife, Mary Helen, his four children

Elaine, Todd, Troy and Troup, three granddaughters and three great-grandchildren.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas and raised in the Westside barrios of San Antonio, Colonel Coronado's early life was marked by adversity. However, Colonel Coronado was determined to overcome every obstacle he encountered. After dropping out of Lanier High School, Colonel Coronado decided to enlist in the United States Air Force at the age of 16. Colonel Coronado served our Nation with immeasurable bravery and honor as he rose through the ranks. He served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and completed tours of duty in Germany, Spain and Panama. For his service, he was awarded a Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit and many other commendations.

In 1958, Colonel Coronado married his wife Mary Helen at Sacred Heart Church in San Antonio. Colonel Coronado and Mrs. Coronado shared a remarkable 67 years of marriage together.

In 1985, Colonel Coronado was assigned to the Inter-American Defense Board. It was here that he began to work closely with Members of Congress to advocate for the expansion of efforts to honor and celebrate the Hispanic contributions to American history. In 1988, his efforts proved successful, when Congress passed legislation that turned National Hispanic Week into Hispanic Heritage Month. Now, every year, because of his tireless advocacy, the United States recognizes and dedicates an entire month to celebrate the rich culture and incredible contributions of the Hispanic community.

In 1994, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton as the first Hispanic Director of the Selective Service System. He retired from the position in 2001 and returned to San Antonio where he continued to serve and lead the community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the incredible life and legacy of Colonel Gil Coronado. He served our Nation with the utmost dignity and respect and was a champion for our Hispanic Heritage. He will be greatly missed.

#### RECOGNIZING JOE SCHUMACHER'S 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

##### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 20, 2026*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Joe Schumacher in honor of his 25 years of dedicated public service to Virginia's 1st Congressional District. Joe has had a profound impact on my work in Congress, and he is truly one of the finest leaders I know. Mr. Schumacher served as Chief of Staff and District Director for my predecessor, Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis. I am grateful that Joe brought his past public service expertise when he began serving as my District Director in 2007. Joe is a native Virginian, an Air Force veteran, and a graduate of the University of Virginia.

In his 25 years of service, Joe has proven to be an indispensable member of my team. His pride for the 1st District extends into everything he does. Not only is Joe passionate about his work, his commitment to bettering