

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

leadership has also guided the development of the Lenora Rolla Heritage Center Museum, fulfilling a long-held vision to create a permanent home dedicated to Fort Worth's Black history and culture.

Ms. Sanders-Wise's tenure has been marked by passion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to historical truth. Through her guidance, the Society has remained a vital institution, strengthening community pride and honoring the legacy of pioneers such as the late Honorable Frank Moss, whose vision continues to inspire this important work.

As the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society gathers under the theme "A Legacy of Love—A Garden of Gratitude" to celebrate her retirement, it is fitting that we pause to reflect on the profound impact of Ms. Sanders-Wise's labor of love. Her leadership has not only enriched our understanding of the past but has also laid a strong foundation for future generations to learn, grow, and lead.

Today, we commend Ms. Brenda Sanders-Wise for her years of faithful service and extend our deepest gratitude for her enduring contributions to history, culture, and community. We wish her a joyful and fulfilling retirement, and we celebrate a legacy that will continue to bloom for generations to come.

**RECOGNIZING ANDREW HEINEMAN
AND HIS SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF RE-
PRESENTATIVES**

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Andrew Heineman for nearly seven years of outstanding service to the constituents of New York's 12th Congressional District and to the United States House of Representatives.

A native of California, Andrew attended California State University, Northridge, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in Political Science and International Relations. His early political work included opposing Proposition 8 in California and later serving as an organizer on the Obama for President campaign, where he was known for knocking on even the most difficult doors.

Andrew later moved to Washington, D.C., where he began his congressional career in the office of Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI. There, he worked his way from Staff Assistant to Legislative Correspondent to Legislative Assistant.

In 2019, I was fortunate to have Andrew join my Washington, D.C. office, working primarily on Transportation and Infrastructure issues, before becoming my Legislative Director in 2022. In this role, he oversaw my entire Legislative agenda, prepared bills, amendments, and statements, and provided thousands of vote recommendations.

As a key member of my senior staff, Andrew has been at the center of my legislative work. He was instrumental in helping pass my landmark legislation, the Respect for Marriage Act, which enshrined marriage equality into law. Andrew worked tirelessly to ensure its passage in both the House and the Senate, and it was a privilege to celebrate with him at the White House for the bill's signing into law.

He was also central to the passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, skillfully negotiating with stakeholders in Washington while simultaneously participating in a meeting with New York elected officials—demonstrating his knowledge and strong political acumen.

As the head of the legislative team, he has served as a mentor for countless Legislative Staffers.

Andrew has been a leader on transportation issues in my office, staffing me on the Committee and advancing critical infrastructure priorities such as the Cross Harbor Rail Project and the Gateway Tunnel, helping ensure that New York City remains the public transit capital of the world. He led our efforts to establish congestion pricing in Manhattan and fend off attacks by President Trump and Secretary Duff.

During his tenure, Andrew held hundreds of meetings with stakeholder groups from across the district, serving as a trusted representative of my office. He consistently brought deep knowledge and a strong understanding of complex issues to every engagement.

He also led numerous New York Delegation letters and served as a valued resource for staff across the House. His extensive network of colleagues and friends on Capitol Hill is a testament to the respect he has earned throughout the institution.

Outside of his official duties, Andrew has remained deeply involved with the California State University, Northridge Semester in Washington Program, where he teaches and mentors students pursuing careers in public service. His commitment to these students reflects dedication to helping others.

I am glad that Andrew is remaining on the Hill and I am sure that I will see him around Rayburn. I look forward to seeing where his career will take him and thank him for his excellent service.

RECOGNIZING AARIV ARORA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aariv Arora of Broomfield, Colorado, for earning the Rookie of the Year Award in the 2025 Congressional App Challenge.

Aariv built an interactive app called WayBuddy, a community safety app that allows students to report roadway hazards for fellow pedestrians and bicyclists on a shared map. This accomplishment is an example of Aariv's determination, hard work, and impressive knowledge base in the STEM field.

I congratulate Aariv Arora for his success in the Congressional App Challenge. I am certain he will continue to show the same dedication and strength of character in all his future endeavors. I am excited to see all he will accomplish.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK O.
GEHRY**

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable life and legacy of the renowned architect Frank O. Gehry. He passed away on December 5, 2025, after a brief battle with a respiratory illness. Mr. Gehry was not only one of the most influential architects of our time, but also a visionary whose work reshaped skylines and inspired generations.

Frank Owen Goldberg was born in Toronto in 1929 and later emigrated with his family to the United States, settling in Los Angeles, where he was raised. Working as a delivery driver while he studied at Los Angeles City College, Frank was inspired by his love of museums and art to study architecture. He later graduated from the University of Southern California's School of Architecture in 1954. Around that time, fearing the negative impact of antisemitism on his architectural career, Frank was persuaded to change his last name to "Gehry." He moved with his family as he began his studies at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design but left the program before completion and returned to Los Angeles where his career in architecture began.

First working for Victor Gruen, the renowned Austrian American architect, and later the French architect, Andre Remonde, Frank quickly built his own unique design styles, and he returned to California. In 1967, he founded Frank Gehry and Associates in Los Angeles. His earliest designs included Santa Monica Place, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, the California Aerospace Museum, the California Museum of Science and Industry, and the Norton House in Venice, California. His designs combined imagination with civic purpose, producing buildings that were as much works of art as they were places for community life.

Mr. Gehry's daring and modern approach would later culminate in globally celebrated landmarks such as the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and the Walt Disney Concert Hall, cementing his reputation as one of the most influential architects of the modern era. Even in the later years of his life, he continued to devote his talents to projects in creative arts and fashion, including stores for Louis Vuitton and Bernard Arnault in Beverly Hills, California, and implementing the final touches on a 1,000-seat concert hall for the Colburn School of Music, right across the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Through these achievements, he inspired residents, policymakers, and artists alike to see architecture as a force for imagination and renewal. His ability to blend bold vision with functionality was extraordinary, and his legacy will endure in the skylines and communities he transformed. Mr. Gehry received numerous honors, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize (1989), the National Medal of Arts, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In addition to these iconic works, Mr. Gehry dedicated significant time to pro bono projects and public service. He was the founder of Turnaround Arts: California, a nonprofit organization that expands access to the arts in under-resourced public elementary and middle