

buckles, and accessories. Each piece is crafted with meticulous attention to detail, a time-honored technique inspired by the store's namesake. When M.L. Leddy's first began crafting handmade boots and saddles, he did so with the passion and drive of a young Texan in the 1920s. He and his brothers set out to make the highest quality products while maintaining a deep commitment to customer service. This milestone is a testament to the success of their endeavor. As a forth-generation family business, Leddy's iconic storefront in the Fort Worth Stockyards is much more than a preferred store, but rather shines as a living landmark of Fort Worth History.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I extend my congratulations to M.L. Leddy's on their outstanding achievement and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 71; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; NAY on Roll Call No. 73; and NAY on Roll Call No. 74.

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#### CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE ALEDO MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

### HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the grand opening of the Aledo Municipal Complex in Aledo, Texas on January 10, 2026. Aledo, the oldest city in Parker County, began as a farming settlement and was later incorporated in 1963. This new facility represents an important milestone in the city's continued growth and development.

The Aledo Municipal Complex brings essential city services together under one roof, thoughtfully combining accessibility with contemporary design. The use of carefully selected materials pays tribute to Aledo's rural roots and reflects the city's motto, Rich Heritage, Dynamic Future. As Aledo continues to grow, this new building stands as a symbol of the community's commitment to progress while remaining firmly grounded in the values and spirit that define it.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate the City of Aledo as it enters a new chapter of service.

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#### HONORING BILLIE JO MEDDERS

### HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 95th birthday of Billie Jo Medders

and to recognize her lifetime of steadfast service to the Bakersfield community.

Born on March 8, 1931, in Indianola, Mississippi, Billie Jo graduated from Indianola High School, where her interest in civic life first took shape. As a senior, she was selected as a delegate to Mississippi Girls' State and was elected lieutenant governor, an experience sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary that foreshadowed a lifetime of engagement in public affairs. She went on to attend Delta State University in Cleveland, where she met her husband, Clarence Medders, and began a lifelong partnership rooted in service.

In 1956, Billie Jo and Clarence relocated to Bakersfield, joining the Bakersfield City School District and making our community their permanent home. Together, they raised their daughters, Emily and Pamela, while investing deeply in the civic and educational life of Kern County. Clarence devoted 44 years to education as a teacher, counselor, and principal. Billie Jo also served the district for 13 years as a school secretary.

As Billie Jo's family took root in Bakersfield, so too did her public service. She joined Assemblyman Thomas's staff as a part-time aide and, following his election to Congress, continued in his Bakersfield office as a caseworker and eventually director of constituent services. Over the course of 29 years, she assisted countless constituents in navigating complex federal agencies, exemplifying the vital role district offices play in responsive government.

I worked directly with Billie Jo for many years as a field representative in the district I now have the honor of representing in Congress. During that time, she demonstrated that constituent services is about serving people with diligence, integrity, and respect. She made clear that every issue—from veterans' benefits to immigration casework to small business assistance—deserved urgency, careful attention, and professionalism. That standard continues to guide how I approach the responsibilities of this office and how I serve California's 20th Congressional District today.

In addition to her government service, Billie Jo remained engaged in the broader nonprofit and civic community. Her decades of involvement have strengthened local institutions and reflected her enduring commitment to Bakersfield's families and seniors. In recognition of that commitment, she was recently honored by Family-to-Family Mentoring, a division of Garden Pathways, Inc., with the "Heart for Bakersfield" award—an apt description of her life's work. Today, she enjoys time with her seven grandchildren, along with traveling, reading, gathering with friends, and adding to her well-known elephant collection.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Billie Jo Medders for her decades of service and for the example she continues to set in our community.

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#### HONORING COACH GARY PATTERSON'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND INDUCTION INTO THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

### HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. Gary

Patterson on his induction into the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. This honor reflects more than four decades of excellence, leadership, and service to the college football.

Coach Patterson's 43-year coaching career, including 24 years leading Texas Christian University, culminated in his distinction as the winningest coach in TCU history. A transformational leader both on and off the football field, he guided the Horned Frogs through an era of sustained excellence and national prominence while navigating many transitions and challenges.

Over the course of 260 total games, Coach Patterson earned 181 victories, led his teams to 18 bowl appearances with 11 bowl victories, and coached five defensive units that ranked number one nationally. Widely regarded as one of the Nation's preeminent defensive coaches, his success was recognized across college football, including being named National Coach of the Year a total of 22 times. He was inducted into the TCU Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the class of 2025 and is set to receive the Davey O'Brien Legends Award in February.

His leadership extends well beyond wins and championships. He has mentored generations of student-athletes, many of whom went on to professional careers, academic distinction, and leadership roles of their own. Coach Patterson also co-founded The Big Good Foundation, earned the National Football Foundation Gridiron Club of Dallas' Distinguished Texan Award, and served as president of the American Football Coaches Association.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I join the people of Texas, the TCU community, and college football fans across the Nation in congratulating Gary Patterson and all those who shared in this journey on this well-deserved and historic honor.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the first vote series on February 24, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 74; NAY on Roll Call No. 73; YEA on Roll Call No. 72; and YEA on Roll Call No. 71.

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#### CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF BOB JAMESON AFTER 13 YEARS WITH VISIT FORT WORTH

### HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career and public service of a distinguished leader in Fort Worth's tourism and economic development community. After 13 years of service, Bob Jameson will retire this April from his role as President and Chief Executive Officer of Visit Fort Worth.

For more than a decade, Mr. Jameson guided the city's official destination marketing organization through a period of remarkable growth and increasing national recognition. Under his leadership, Fort Worth's tourism economy expanded significantly, with gains in economic activity, visitation, employment, and tax revenue reaching unprecedented levels. These achievements supported thousands of local jobs and elevated Fort Worth's standing as a premier destination for travel, sports, arts, culture, and conventions. Local leaders have noted that his tenure established a durable framework for continued success.

During his time at Visit Fort Worth, Mr. Jameson helped position the city as one of the fastest-growing tourist destinations in the Nation. Annual visitation grew to more than 11 million visitors each year, generating an estimated \$3.5 billion in annual economic impact. His leadership raised the profile of Visit Fort Worth and transformed its annual meeting into a major citywide event. Through the creation of the Fort Worth Sports Commission, the Hear Fort Worth music office, the Fort Worth Film Commission, and the Fort Worth Tourism Public Improvement District, his influence can be seen across numerous sectors of the local economy. This has reinforced sustainable growth, enhanced collaboration across public and private sectors, and solidified Fort Worth's commitment to cultural vitality and economic opportunity.

Beyond his executive role, Mr. Jameson has been an instrumental civic leader in Fort Worth, serving on the boards of Arts Fort Worth; the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce; the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce; the Fort Worth Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Near Southside; Fort Worth Opera; the Cliburn; the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra; Fort Worth Sister Cities International; and Downtown Fort Worth Inc. His service reflects the dedication, leadership, and pride that define Fort Worth as a community.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to congratulate Bob Jameson on his retirement and to extend my sincere best wishes as he begins the next chapter of his life.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF ETHEL L. CUFF BLACK

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ethel L. Cuff Black, a trailblazing educator and one of the 22 visionary founders of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Born on October 17, 1890, in Wilmington, Delaware, Mrs. Cuff Black was raised with a commitment to excellence and service that guided her life. She pursued her studies at Howard University, where she became one of the 22 young women who boldly established Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., on January 13, 1913. The sorority was founded on principles of scholarship, sisterhood, and service; values that Mrs. Cuff Black carried into every facet of her life.

In one of their first acts of service, Mrs. Cuff Black joined her sorority sisters in the historic

1913 March down Pennsylvania Avenue, standing at the forefront of the struggle for equality and representation. Her courage and vision laid the groundwork for one of the Nation's most influential Black women's organization, which continues to uplift communities more than a century later.

After graduating, Mrs. Cuff Black dedicated herself to education, serving as a teacher in Missouri, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. Later in New York, she became the first Black teacher in Richmond Hills, Queens. Mrs. Cuff Black joined 10 other dedicated women in chartering the Queens Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Together, they worked hand in hand with the community to advance educational opportunities, promote civic engagement, and uplift families across Queens. This act of leadership and service ensured that the sorority's mission remained deeply rooted in community partnership for decades to come. Since 1952, the Queens Alumnae chapter has awarded over \$400,000 in scholarship to students in the Queens community.

Mrs. Cuff Black is most honorably remembered for her unwavering devotion to education, community, advancing opportunities for Black Americans, and her pioneering spirit in the fight for social justice. She is survived by the enduring legacy of her students and the hundreds of thousands of Delta women who follow in her footsteps across four continents.

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RECOGNIZING THE ALL SAINTS  
FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize All Saints Episcopal School on their state championship win in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Division II Football Championship. This exceptional achievement is a testament to the discipline, perseverance, and balance these students maintain in their athletic and academic pursuits.

Throughout the season, the All-Saints football program exemplified determination, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to success. Under the leadership of dedicated coaches and with the steadfast support of their community, these student athletes secured a historic record-breaking season. Their championship win marked an impressive 28th consecutive victory, a milestone that reflects strength and consistency within the program. All Saints players successfully defended their 2024 state championship title, further cementing their legacy of excellence. I am honored to represent these exceptional students and commend them for their achievements both academically and athletically.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate the Fort Worth All Saints football team and wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND  
EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF  
THELMA PETTIS

**HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and extraordinary service of Thelma Pettis, a distinguished leader of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, whose passing is deeply felt across the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the South Atlantic Region.

Soror Pettis devoted more than eight decades of faithful service to Delta Sigma Theta, exemplifying the sorority's highest ideals of sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action. Just recently, she was lovingly celebrated by the Richmond Alumnae Chapter for her remarkable 80 years of membership and was honored as a panelist during "Delta Days" in the Virginia General Assembly, continuing her commitment to civic engagement and public service until her final days.

From 1986 to 1989, Soror Pettis served as the ninth South Atlantic Regional Director, leading with wisdom, grace, and an unwavering dedication to strengthening chapters, developing leaders, and advancing the sorority's mission. Her tenure left an indelible mark on the Region, and her leadership continues to inspire generations of Delta women.

At the local level, Soror Pettis twice served as President of the Richmond Alumnae Chapter, where under her leadership, she deepened the chapter's impact and reinforced its role as a pillar of service in the community. She also played a pivotal role in helping to charter the Rho Rho Chapter at University of Richmond, extending the reach of Delta Sigma Theta's mission to a new generation of student leaders and ensuring the sorority's legacy of excellence and service would endure on campus and beyond. As a charter member of Rho Rho, I benefited greatly from her leadership and kindness.

Soror Thelma Pettis lived a life of purpose and principle. Her legacy is one of service rendered with humility, leadership exercised with compassion, and commitment sustained across a lifetime. She will be deeply missed by her sorors, her community, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to her daughter, Soror Karen Pettis Walden, her family, loved ones, and the members of the Richmond Alumnae Chapter. May they find comfort in knowing that Soror Pettis' life had a profound impact, and that her legacy will continue to guide and uplift generations to come.

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CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE PARKER COUNTY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026*

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Parker County Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. The Chamber