

RECOGNIZING RENEE GOINS' 96TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 96th birthday of Mrs. Renee Goins. Born on February 2, 1930, in Liverpool, England, Renee is a cherished community member of Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

Renee first moved to the U.S. in 1966, where she settled down with her first husband, Edward, and their three boys in a house on Coakley Road in Portsmouth. Renee instantly became an active member of the Portsmouth community, working many different jobs and advocating for youth and civil rights.

She started and managed her own business for about three years, then moved on to work at the local IRS office in town, then the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard for twenty years, and finally as a housing inspector at Pease Air Force Base until its closing in 1991. After retiring at age 61, Renee worked part time for the New Hampshire Lottery Commission and as an usher at the Music Hall in Portsmouth.

As an active member of the Portsmouth community, Renee established the NAACP library in the former Portsmouth library and helped organize fundraising dances to raise money for NAACP college scholarships for local high school students. The NAACP still gives out these scholarships every year.

Renee was also a close friend of the late Mrs. Vernis M. Jackson, a teacher and local Portsmouth hero, together they helped bring Kwanzaa celebrations to Portsmouth through the Seacoast African American Cultural Center (SAACC). The SAACC, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2025, has been a hub for showcasing the contributions of Black organizations and individuals in the Seacoast community.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I wish Mrs. Renee Goins a happy 96th birthday and thank her for her leadership and dedicated work to celebrate the achievements of Black Americans of New Hampshire. I hope that she had a wonderful celebration with her family and friends.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF DR. WILLIAM DAVID MYERS

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. William David Myers of Rolla, who passed away on January 26, 2026, at the age of 74, after nearly five decades of devoted service providing quality healthcare to the people of central Missouri.

Dr. Myers was inspired to pursue a career in medicine by his family's example. For generations, his father and uncles practiced medicine in the very region he would one day serve. He graduated from Northeast Missouri State University on a pre-medical track and earned his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine

from the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. In 1976, he began what would become a remarkable career dedicated to caring for tens of thousands of patients.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Myers was especially proud of delivering nearly 3,000 babies throughout his career, in a testament to the relationships and trust he built with his patients, some of those children later returned to him as adults to deliver their own children. He built lasting relationships grounded in compassion, humility, and an easygoing sense of humor. Patients and colleagues alike remember his warm manner and steadfast dedication to their well-being.

Beyond his medical practice, Dr. Myers was deeply committed to his community. A former high school athlete, he maintained a lifelong passion for youth sports and generously provided free athletic physicals for local students year after year. He believed in investing not only in the health of his patients, but also in the future of his community.

Dr. Myers was known for placing the needs of others above his own, seeking neither recognition nor accolades. He was generous with both his time and resources, often accepting no more than a dollar—or even a simple drink—from patients who could not afford care. He quietly organized friends and family to anonymously assist patients struggling to pay for treatment or even provide Christmas gifts for their families. As his nephew beautifully said, "He was not materially a rich man, but in spirit, my uncle died the richest man in town."

It is my great privilege to recognize Dr. Myers' extraordinary career and his unwavering service to the people of Missouri before the United States House of Representatives. His life stands as a powerful example of compassion, humility, and selfless dedication to others.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF JO ANN BLAND

**HON. TERRI A. SEWELL**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Ms. Jo Ann Bland, who passed away on February 19, 2026, at the age of 72.

Jo Ann was born on July 29, 1953, in Selma, Alabama, to the late Alfred Charles Blackmon and Ludie Wright Blackmon. True to her Selma roots, Jo Ann dedicated her life to the struggle for civil rights and voting rights. As an active member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee, she joined The Movement at a remarkably young age, and at just 11 years old, she was one of the youngest participants in the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery.

Despite the violence she witnessed on Bloody Sunday, her courage did not end on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. By the time she reached her early teens, Jo Ann had been arrested at least 13 times for participating in civil rights demonstrations, guided by her fearless and unwavering resolve for justice. That same resolve extended into the classroom where Jo Ann, alongside six other courageous students, integrated Selma's A.G. Parrish High School,

opening doors of opportunity for countless children to follow in her footsteps. After graduating, she attended the College of Staten Island in New York and proudly served in the United States Army.

After being discharged from the Army, Jo Ann returned to Alabama, where she sought to educate others on Selma's role in the Civil Rights Movement. In 1989, she co-founded the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute, and in 2007, she founded Journeys for the Soul, a tour agency dedicated to teaching visitors from around the world the true history of the Civil Rights Movement in Selma.

In 2001, alongside Kimberly Smitherman, Jo Ann began purchasing parcels of land adjacent to the site where civil rights and voting rights activists gathered on Bloody Sunday. Through their combined efforts, the land was developed into Foot Soldiers Park, which stands as a memorial to the countless everyday people who marched, bled, and even died in pursuit of civil and voting rights for all, ensuring that their legacy would continue to inspire future generations.

Jo Ann is preceded in death by her parents, Alfred Charles Blackmon and Ludie Wright Blackmon; her grandmother, Sylvia Johnson; her sisters, Jackie Maxey and Lynda Lowery; and her brother, Al Blackmon. She is survived by her son, Antonio Bowie, Sr.; her granddaughter, Jasmyn Bowie; her grandsons, Antonio Bowie, Jr., Samuel Bowie, and Jordan Bowie; her surviving sisters, Sadie Moss, Mary Myles, and Mary Hudson; her special sister, Frances Bowie; her special daughter, Kimberly Smitherman; her special son, Demetrius Callens; her special granddaughters, Ja'kira Simmons and Charmekia Moore; her special nephew, Tony Blackmon; her special grandchildren, James Henderson and Samuel Flagg; her special great-grandchild, Jaxston Boyd; her goddaughter, Randy (Renee) Garrett; her god-granddaughters, Riley, Raven, and Ruby Garnett; her god great-granddaughter, Ziporah Rene' Stroud; her sister-in-law, Beverly Blackmon; her special friends, Queen Ramsey and Tracy Arnold; the dedicated staff and volunteers of Foot Soldiers Park, who became family and carried her vision alongside her; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family members, and lifelong friends.

On a personal note, I am forever grateful for the sacrifices made by Jo Ann Bland in the name of equality and justice. I know that I get to walk the halls of Congress as Alabama's first Black congresswoman because of her courage, resilience, and dedication. Her life is a testament to the power of ordinary Americans to achieve extraordinary social change, and her contributions to the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movements serve as an inspiration for future generations. In 2024, it was a privilege to bring Jo Ann as my special guest to President Biden's State of the Union Address, and upon her passing, I was honored to pay tribute to her on the floor of the House of Representatives. I will miss her wisdom and friendship. On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Ms. Jo Ann Bland for her contributions to the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Movements and her decades of exemplary service to our nation in our fight for liberty, equality, and justice for all.

May she Rest in Power.

## RECOGNIZING JOHN MARRIOTT

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Marriott of Arvada, Colorado for receiving the Arvada Chamber of Commerce's 2025 Policy Leader of the Year Award.

John Marriott began his public service in 2007 as a member of the Arvada Board of Adjustment. He was later elected to the Arvada City Council from 2013 to 2025 and served as Mayor Pro-Tem from 2017 to 2019. In his time serving the Arvada community, John spearheaded partnerships among Arvada, Jefferson County Schools, and Apex Parks & Recreation that created the Fitzmorris and Arvada Aquatic Centers. He also advanced major infrastructure projects like the Ralston Road and 72nd Avenue improvements. John has worked alongside community leaders and championed policies to ensure our local businesses have the resources and tools they need to serve our communities and drive economic growth.

The Policy Leader of the Year is awarded to a public official who demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to helping Arvada businesses thrive, and John's dedication to strengthening our local economy, fostering public-private partnerships, and delivering real solutions for the community makes him a truly deserving recipient of this honor.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate John Marriott on receiving the Policy Leader Award and thank him for his contributions to the Arvada community.

## RECOGNIZING THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE SOCIETY OF THE CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the Pennsylvania State Society of the Children of the American Revolution for their positive impact across the state and Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District.

The Pennsylvania State Society Children of the American Revolution (CAR) belongs to the National Society CAR, which was chartered in 1895 by author and Daughters of the American Revolution member, Harriet Lothrop. Harriet's vision was to instill patriotism and reverence for America's institutions and principles among future generations.

Any boy or girl under the age of twenty-two who has lineal descent from a soldier, sailor, civil officer, or recognized patriot in the cause of American Independence is eligible for membership. As heirs of the American Revolution, the Pennsylvania Society educates its members on American history, assists in the preservation and recognition of historical places and figures tied to the revolution, and promotes American patriotism.

The Pennsylvania State Society CAR has over twenty societies, or chapters, across the

commonwealth. These include the George Ross Society in Lancaster and the Colonel Thomas Hartley Society in York, both of which are named after local figures who played an important role in America's founding.

As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary in July, it is heartening to know that the Pennsylvania State Society CAR is keeping our history and heritage of liberty alive. I thank the leaders and the members of the organization for their positive impact, and I wish them continued success in all they do.

## CELEBRATING VETERAN ROBERT JAMES HAGARTY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veteran Robert James Hagarty's 90th birthday and for his service to our country and the Tampa Bay community.

Robert Hagarty was born on February 28, 1936, in New Jersey, and spent his life rooted in the values of a veteran upbringing. Hagarty dedicated his life to building one of the largest private collections of war memorabilia in the world. His father, a World War I veteran, instilled in him a passion for service and patriotism. Hagarty recounted that, at age 10, his father gave him two decorative buttons from his uniform, and he traces his passion to that moment. "Those were like gold, to me, since they were from the war; instantly, I wanted more."

In 1966, Hagarty served in the 25th Infantry as a Vietnam Veteran, before being honorably discharged after four years in the Army. Later, Hagarty moved to St. Petersburg and not only found his hometown but also a reason to unite the community through his collection of war medals.

Hagarty's work is rooted in every part of the community, ranging from being a schoolteacher, historian and Army veteran. His pride in highlighting the heroism of soldiers, their families, and veterans is evident in his endless collection and preservation of war history. Today, Hagarty continues to forge connections to the patriotic past like the buttons sewn onto his father's uniform.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the St. Petersburg community, it gives me great pride to honor and send many wishes to Robert Hagarty on his 90th birthday. Hagarty is a living testament to what you can do for your country and your neighbors. Through his leadership, perseverance, and commitment to honoring Veterans' heroism, Hagarty remains a shining example in the Tampa Bay area.

## HONORING DEREK SIMPSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 4, 2026*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for fifty-five years, the City of New Haven, Connecticut has been home to Derek Simpson Goldsmith,

a jewelry store offering unique pieces of all kinds designed by the remarkable artist, Derek Simpson. At the end of this month, the store will close and Derek will retire—a loss for Downtown New Haven and jewelry lovers everywhere. A beloved artist, small business owner, and community member, Derek and his exceptional craftsmanship will be missed by many.

Born and raised in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, Derek earned a national design diploma upon his graduation from the School of Silversmithing at Sheffield College of Arts and Crafts. His undergraduate success was rewarded with a scholarship for post-graduate study at the Royal College of Art in the School of Silversmithing and Jewelry. Derek began his career working for renowned American jeweler, Bert C. Gore in Paris before returning to England where he was a professor of metalwork at the Rotherham School of Art and later the head of metalwork at Mid-Cheshire College of Art and Design. He enjoyed great success as a designer and educator; however, his true dream was to open his own jewelry store. It was a dream that he would fulfill here in America.

With relatives in the area, Derek relocated to the New Haven, Connecticut, area in 1970. Just a year later, the owner of a bookstore on Park Street in City's downtown agreed to lease him a small space at the front of his business. It was here that Derek Simpson Goldsmith took root and Derek's dreams of owning his own business were realized. It was not long before both the business and inventory grew requiring Derek to seek a larger storefront. The design and creation of jewelry pieces is an art in and of itself. As a master jeweler, Derek is a brilliant artist. It is that nexus of art and jewelry that inspired former Yale President Henry Broude to offer Derek a retail space at the Yale Center for British Art while it was under construction in 1974. Designed by architect Louis Kahn, the Yale Center for British Art was a perfect fit and thus Derek Simpson Goldsmith found its second downtown New Haven home. Twenty years later, Derek later moved the business to its current downtown location on Chapel Street where it has remained since.

Derek's mastery of design and his artistry have been recognized by local jewelry lovers and international celebrities alike. In addition to the incredibly popular and adored collections he has designed and sold in his stores, Derek has also been commissioned to create special pieces. Shirt studs for composer Leonard Bernstein, cufflinks for architect Philip Johnson, a pin and an earring respectively for American tennis greats Chris Evert, and Andre Aggasi, and necklaces for Olivia Newton-John and Patty Smith—all designed and created by Derek Simpson. In 1976, Derek was commissioned by the City of New Haven to design a silver pillbox, its lid etched with nine squares depicting New Haven original city plan. During the U.S. Bicentennial festivities in New Haven, the specially commissioned pillbox was presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, II to commemorate the Nation's anniversary and her visit.

On a more personal note, I have been a fan and customer of Derek's for decades. I have always been in awe of his talent and creativity. I am especially grateful to Derek for the engagement ring and wedding bands he designed for myself and my husband. His imagination and creativity are just astounding. We