

Mr. Speaker, I am so greatly humbled and honored to recognize Mr. Robert Boyer on the blessed and truly amazing occasion of his 102nd Birthday. His life truly epitomizes that of "The Greatest Generation" and of a life done right—as evidenced by his wife, Be-Be, his family and friends who love him dearly, and the countless people whose lives he has touched and affected in myriad ways. He sets the standard by which all should be judged, and I wish him continued God's blessings.

RECOGNIZING ISABELLA ZAHN

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school athlete from Ohio's 5th Congressional District. Isabella Zahn, a senior at Coldwater High School, has represented her school ably on her way to achieving three Division III State Titles for the 200 Meter Dash, 400 Meter Dash, and Girls Long Jump at the State Track and Field Meet. Isabella overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in her effort to win the title.

In pursuing the State Championship, Isabella defeated her opponents with an impressive time of 23.04 seconds in the 200 Meter Dash, 52.89 seconds in the 400 Meter Dash, and a jump of 18–08.50 in the Girls Long Jump. Her hard work and dedication, both on and off the track, in achieving this accomplishment is truly outstanding. She has achieved an impressive season, bringing pride to her school and community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Isabella Zahn of Coldwater High School. On behalf of the people of the 5th District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

RECOGNIZING H. GRADY SPRUCE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the students and faculty of H. Grady Spruce High School in Dallas, Texas for their participation in our 2026 Valentines for Veterans program.

Through this initiative, Junior ROTC students created more than 130 Valentine's Day cards for veterans in our North Texas community, sharing encouragement, appreciation, and heartfelt support with those who have served. Their commitment to honoring our heroes helped make this project a tremendous success, contributing to over 1,800 Valentine's Day cards received by our office.

This outpouring of kindness reflects the deep gratitude for our veterans that remains strong throughout North Texas.

The creativity and compassion demonstrated by these students are a testament to the caring spirit present throughout their school. I commend them for their generosity and community involvement and thank them

for helping make this year's Valentines for Veterans program so meaningful. It is an honor to represent them in Texas' 24th District.

CONGRATULATING RIDGE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Columbia's Ridge View High School boys' basketball team, "The Blazers," as they defeated Ashley Ridge High School in the 2026 Class 5A Division I South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) Basketball State Championship. This marks their seventh state championship in the past 9 years.

On March 6, 2026, the Blazers won the game 65–44, bringing their final record to 27 wins and 3 losses.

The Ridge View High basketball team includes players Talan Stanley, Jourdin Mack, Robert Wylie, RJ Davis, CJ Moore, Brayden Mack, Noah Sanders, Khabir McLawhorn, Gregory Williams, Joshua Vankallen, Kaleb Peters, Christopher Horton, and James Ross. Alongside the players are their talented coaches, Joshua Staley, Devonte Coulter, Reginald Murray, Kenneth Hunter, Christian Savage, David Smith, Chris Johnson, and Rion Davis.

On behalf of all South Carolina, I congratulate the Ridge View High Blazers on this impressive achievement and wish them the best of luck as they defend their title in the upcoming season. These victories are well-deserved for the teams, coaches, families, and community for all their hard work and support, making their dream come true.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARIZONA VETERANS' MEMORIAL CEMETERY AT MARANA

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 10th Anniversary of the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana.

Before becoming the 100th state Veterans' cemetery in the Nation to be built under the Department of Veteran Affairs cemetery grant program, the memorial's founders spent years advocating for its construction. Paul Marsh, together with Norman Ross and Wendell Hague, were instrumental in their incredible legacy and service to Arizona's veterans to make this cemetery come to fruition.

They found support in the town of Marana, especially the Kai family, making the dream of a veterans' memorial in Marana a reality. I want to personally thank and recognize the Kai family for their generous donation of the land where the cemetery sits.

Ten years after their donation and the construction of this beautiful memorial, nearly 4,000 veterans have been laid to rest.

To the Board of Directors, their foundation, Tom Shambo, and all staff who made this moment possible—I thank them. With nearly 80,000 veterans in our congressional district, their work has allowed for a wonderful and hallowed resting place for our local veterans.

To all veterans and active service members—I thank them for their commitment to keeping our Nation free and all of us here safe. Their sacrifices have allowed us to enjoy this beautiful Nation we call home, and the many freedoms we have here unlike anywhere else in the world.

I Congratulate the Arizona Veterans' Memorial Cemetery at Marana on 10 years. I know this memorial will continue to be a pillar of our community for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING HARRY C. WITHERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students and faculty of Harry C. Withers Elementary School in Dallas, Texas for their participation in our 2026 Valentines for Veterans program.

Through this initiative, students created more than 320 Valentine's Day cards for veterans in our North Texas community, sharing encouragement, appreciation, and heartfelt support with those who have served.

I would also like to recognize the members of their Student Council for their leadership in organizing and supporting this project. Their commitment to honoring our heroes helped make it a tremendous success, contributing to over 1,800 Valentine's Day cards received by our office.

This outpouring of kindness reflects the deep gratitude for our veterans that remains strong throughout North Texas.

The creativity and compassion demonstrated by these students are a testament to the caring spirit present throughout their school. I commend them for their generosity and community involvement and thank them for helping make this year's Valentines for Veterans program so meaningful. It is an honor to represent them in Texas' 24th District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SAMUEL "SAM" STRUTH

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Samuel "Sam" Struth of Monroe as the Veteran of the Month for March and honor him for his dedicated service to our great Nation.

Sam Struth served in the United States Army from 1975 to 1980. He completed basic and advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and attended U.S. Army Airborne School at Fort Benning in Georgia. He was assigned to the 548th Engineer Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he participated in numerous emergency relief operations, including earthquake relief in Guatemala in 1976, as well as flood recovery efforts

in Virginia and West Virginia in 1979 and 1980. For his service, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Expert Marksmanship Badge.

Sam's service did not end when he took off the uniform. Sam has stayed actively involved in the veteran community, dedicating a significant amount of time to volunteer for various organizations such as Angels for Veterans and AMVETS of Monroe County. These organizations strengthen the bonds of fellowship, provide practical assistance, and remind our veterans that their sacrifices are both remembered and honored.

In service to his community, Sam also co-founded Flags O'er Veterans with Ken Moore after identifying that several local cemeteries lacked American flags honoring deceased veterans. The organization pays tribute to veterans in Monroe by raising funds to install flagpoles, American flags, lighting, and memorial plaques in cemeteries where they are laid to rest. What began with a simple but powerful conviction that every veteran's resting place should be marked by the flag they defended has grown into a lasting local tribute.

Sam Struth's remarkable life of service and his leadership working on behalf of America's veterans inspire us all. May others know of my high regard for Sam, as well as my deep gratitude for his lasting contributions to the country we love.

HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE
OF H. PYLORI SCREENING

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to highlight an important opportunity to prevent stomach cancer, ulcers, and other stomach diseases—and save lives—through increased awareness and screening for *Helicobacter pylori*, commonly known as H. pylori.

I am a strong supporter of stomach cancer research and have proudly authored a letter to the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense, along with my colleague Representative JOSH GOTTHEIMER, to continue to include stomach cancer in the DoD's Peer-Reviewed Cancer Research Program. I encourage my colleagues to join us in this effort and sign our letter.

I also strongly support implementing prevention strategies already proven by research. H. pylori is a bacterial infection of the stomach that affects millions of Americans and is recognized as the leading cause of stomach cancer, a disease that is often diagnosed at a late stage and remains one of our Nation's deadliest cancers. The bacterium is classified as a Group 1 carcinogen, meaning it is definitively linked to cancer in humans. Fortunately, it is also one of the few stomach cancer risk factors that can be detected with a simple non-invasive test and treated with antibiotics.

There have already been significant studies on this issue. Large clinical trials and long-term studies have demonstrated that eradicating H. pylori infection can reduce the risk of developing stomach cancer by roughly 45 to 50 percent among infected individuals. In other words, identifying and treating this infec-

tion represents one of the most promising opportunities we have today to prevent a deadly cancer before it begins.

This issue is particularly important for our military and veteran communities. Service members may face increased exposure to H. pylori during overseas deployments to regions where the infection is more common, as well as through living conditions that can facilitate transmission, such as close quarters in barracks or ship berths. Studies suggest that approximately 25 percent of the U.S. veteran population has had or currently has an H. pylori infection.

The American College of Gastroenterology, which provides widely used clinical guidelines on this issue, strongly recommends that all patients diagnosed with H. pylori infection receive eradication therapy and be re-tested afterward to confirm that the infection has been successfully eliminated. In addition, household contacts of infected individuals may also benefit from testing.

However, recent research examining veterans receiving care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has identified significant gaps in care. A large study of veterans found that approximately 25 percent of patients who tested positive for H. pylori were not prescribed eradication therapy, despite clinical guidelines recommending treatment for all infected individuals. In addition, only about 21 percent of patients received recommended follow-up testing to confirm that the infection had been successfully eliminated, leaving many veterans unknowingly at continued risk.

These findings highlight a clear opportunity to strengthen prevention efforts and improve care for those who have served our Nation. Improving early detection and treatment of a H. pylori infection has the potential not only to prevent stomach cancer, but also to reduce long-term healthcare costs and improve force readiness by addressing a preventable disease before it becomes life-threatening.

For these reasons, I support efforts calling on the United States Department of Defense to conduct a cost and feasibility study evaluating H. pylori screening among members of the Armed Forces and veterans, including those receiving care through the Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Such a study will help determine how we can implement a targeted screening program for at-risk servicemembers and veterans and ensure that they receive the preventive care they deserve.

I have submitted a request to the House Armed Services Committee to include this directive as report language in the Fiscal Year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act, and I hope the committee will give this request strong consideration.

I would also like to thank my constituent, Mike Fields, a volunteer with Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer, for bringing this issue to my attention and for sharing his personal story with me and my staff.

This issue matters to families in South Carolina and across the country. By increasing awareness of H. pylori infection, expanding access to testing, and studying the feasibility of screening programs for military and veteran populations, we can take meaningful steps toward preventing stomach cancer and saving lives.

Prevention remains one of the most powerful tools we have in the fight against cancer.

Acting on the research we already have regarding H. pylori infection offers a practical and evidence-based opportunity to protect the health of Americans—including those who have bravely served our Nation.

RECOGNIZING J.J. PEARCE HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students and faculty of J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Texas for their participation in our 2026 Valentines for Veterans program.

Through this initiative, students and Junior ROTC members created more than 170 Valentine's Day cards for veterans in our North Texas community, sharing encouragement, appreciation, and heartfelt support with those who have served. Their commitment to honoring our heroes helped make this project a tremendous success, contributing to over 1,800 Valentine's Day cards received by our office.

This outpouring of kindness reflects the deep gratitude for our veterans that remains strong throughout North Texas.

The creativity and compassion demonstrated by these students are a testament to the caring spirit present throughout their school. I commend them for their generosity and community involvement and thank them for helping make this year's Valentines for Veterans program so meaningful. It is an honor to represent them in Texas' 24th District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LATE OREGON
STATE SENATOR AVEL
GORDLY

HON. JANELLE S. BYNUM

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Ms. BYNUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a mentor and true friend, Oregon State Senator Avel Gordly. Senator Gordly, the first Black woman to serve in the chamber, brought a presence that was regal and distinctive. Sadly, her tenure as an elected Black Oregonian was so rare that when she came to visit me on the House floor, many in the chamber thought she was a relative rather than the esteemed public servant who had dedicated and delivered so much to Oregon. I will miss her phone calls, her inspirational texts, and most of all, her high expectations of me. I include in the RECORD the following obituary as an esteemed account of Senator Gordly's impressive life:

February 13, 1947–February 16, 2026

Avel Louise Gordly was born February 13, 1947, and was a daughter of Fay Lee Gordly and Beatrice Bernice Coleman Gordly, a sister to Fayette (Faye) Burch and Tyrone Lee Gordly. She was the mother of one son, Tyrone Waters, whose loving care enabled Avel to live comfortably and peacefully at home during the last years of her life. She is also