

the people who meant the most to him. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren were truly the joy of his heart. And if you knew him, you knew that his door—and his table—were always open. He believed in lending a hand, sharing what he had, and making sure nobody around him felt alone. That was simply the kind of man he was.

Scripture reminds us in Psalm 30:5, “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” While we mourn his passing, we also give thanks for a life well lived and for the many memories that will continue to bring comfort and strength to those who loved him. Mr. Bizer leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Renee Bizer; his daughters, Sonya Renee Bizer, Wanda LaGail Wilson, and Kimberly Bizer Tolbert; his stepsons, Marvin Castle and Patrick McDonald; and his stepdaughter, Tawana Castle. He is also survived by his brothers, Charlie Bizer (Valencia) and Terry Bizer, Jr. (Emma), and his sisters, Marilyn Rainey and Evelyn Embry. He was preceded in death by his son, Martin Cokes, as well as his brother, Freddie Bizer, and sister, Sallie Mae Gossett. He also leaves behind a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family members, and friends whose lives are better because he was part of them.

Mr. Bizer’s legacy lives on not only in the family he raised but also in the community he helped shape through kindness, humility, and faith. His life reminds us that greatness is not always measured in titles or accolades, but in the love he gave to the people he lifted up, and the faith he carried along the way.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH P. BROWN

HON. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deborah P. Brown for more than forty-four years of extraordinary service to the American Lung Association and for a lifetime of visionary leadership dedicated to saving lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

As Chief Mission Officer of the American Lung Association, and previously as President and CEO of the Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic, Deb Brown has been a transformative leader whose steadfast advocacy, innovative leadership, and unwavering commitment to public health have strengthened programs, advanced research, expanded advocacy, and forged impactful partnerships across the Nation. Her work has helped improve lung health and strengthen public health protections for Pennsylvanians and communities nationwide.

Deb’s commitment to lung health is deeply personal. After losing loved ones to pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH), she dedicated her life to ensuring that no family faces lung disease without access to support, education, and hope. That experience strengthened her resolve to raise awareness, advance research, and champion policies that improve quality of life for those living with lung disease.

In Pennsylvania, Deb was instrumental in advancing landmark public health achievements, including tobacco prevention initiatives, asthma control efforts, expanded healthcare access, clean air protections and anti-idling

legislation that strengthened safeguards for residents across the Commonwealth. Her leadership also extended to Delaware, where she played a pivotal role in the passage of the state’s Clean Indoor Air Act—then the second comprehensive law of its kind in the Nation. As Chair of the Delaware Cancer Consortium, she led statewide efforts to improve cancer prevention, detection, and treatment.

Over the past eight years, under her national leadership, Deb advanced the American Lung Association’s work in research, advocacy, and public education. Under her direction, the organization successfully advocated for stronger car and truck emission standards, cleaner power plants, and critical methane emission controls from oil and gas operations—policies that continue to deliver lasting health benefits. She also served on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. During her tenure, the organization supported approximately \$178.6 million in research investments to advance initiatives that improve lung health and accelerate innovation.

Deb’s leadership was particularly critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she helped advance science-based public health efforts to protect people living with lung disease. She also played an important role in advancing Tobacco 21 policies, protecting children from predatory marketing of e-cigarettes, and supporting state-level successes, including increased tobacco taxes. She strengthened advocacy efforts that bring lung disease patients and caregivers to Washington, D.C. each year to advocate for protecting access to affordable healthcare and securing sustained federal funding for the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With degrees in Public Health and Health Education and as a Certified Health Education Specialist, Deb has dedicated her career to empowering communities through education, prevention, and advocacy. She has authored curricula, contributed to research publications, and trained advocates and educators across the country. Just as importantly, she is widely respected for her mentorship and compassion, helping cultivate the next generation of public health leaders.

Through her visionary leadership, deeply personal commitment, and tireless dedication to lung health, Deb has improved the lives of countless individuals and families and helped create healthier communities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States. Her legacy will endure in cleaner air, stronger public health protections, groundbreaking research, expanded access to care, and the many lives saved and leaders inspired by her example.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the career and retirement of Deborah P. Brown.

INTRODUCTION OF THE JURY DUTY EXEMPTION FOR BREASTFEEDING ACT OF 2026

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Jury Duty Exemption for

Breastfeeding Act of 2026, which would allow breastfeeding individuals summoned for jury service in the federal courts or the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to be excused from service upon the individual’s request. The benefits of breastfeeding are well-documented, and individuals should not be deterred from breastfeeding by jury service.

This bill would apply to the D.C. Superior Court because Congress is the only legislative body that can mandate this exemption for the D.C. Superior Court. The D.C. Home Rule Act prohibits the D.C. Council from enacting any law relating to Title 11 of the D.C. Code, which governs jury service in the D.C. Superior Court.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING RABBI JOSEPH R. BLACK

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague, Representative JASON CROW, to congratulate our friend, Rabbi Joseph R. Black on his retirement and elevation to Rabbi Emeritus of the Temple Emanuel congregation in Denver.

Over his 43-year rabbinical career, crossing the country from Minneapolis to Albuquerque to Denver, where he served for 14 years as Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Black has exemplified what he calls the sacred work of “connecting tissue”—bringing people, text, tradition, and time into focus for his community. This same spirit of connection has made him a vital bridge between faith and public service in Colorado.

An award-winning songwriter and nationally recognized musician, Rabbi Black has recorded seven albums of original music and published two songbooks, becoming one of the most popular Jewish contemporary artists in the United States. Music has always been central to Jewish spiritual life, transmitted through voice, rhythm, and song long before prayer was fixed on the page. Rabbi Black brought this tradition to life with a thoughtful blend of music, storytelling, creativity, and Jewish learning that made ancient wisdom accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.

His musical ministry transcends entertainment—it is activism set to melody. As he sang in the title track of his most recent album, *Praying with Our Feet*: “we will not stand idly by, and watch our values die. When we heed the call for justice, we are praying with our feet.” These words embody the essence of civic engagement—that faith without action rings hollow, and that true spiritual leadership requires translating values into public service.

Rabbi Black’s commitment to civic engagement reaches far beyond the recording studio or the synagogue walls. For 14 years, Rabbi Black has delivered opening prayers at the Colorado House of Representatives, offering lawmakers spiritual grounding as they undertake the “holy” and consequential work of governance. His message to legislators was to see beyond partisanship, remember their duty to all constituents, and find the divine spark in every person they serve.

Even in retirement, Rabbi Black continues to provide moral leadership on issues of justice and human dignity. His voice has been a beacon of moral clarity, calling out the forces of intolerance and defending the vulnerable against collective punishment.

As Rabbi Black has shown us through four decades of service, the work of repairing our world's "connecting tissue" is never finished—it passes from generation to generation, from community to community, and from those who sing justice into being to those who carry the melody forward.

RECOGNIZING RISD ACADEMY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

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

Through this initiative, students created more than 290 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 GREENWOOD
VOTERS LEAGUE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the historic legacy of the Greenwood Voters League, an organization whose courage, persistence, and commitment to democracy transformed political participation in Greenwood, Mississippi, and helped advance voting rights throughout the Mississippi Delta.

Founded in the years following the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the Greenwood Voters League emerged at a time when African American citizens in Leflore County—despite being a majority of the population—were systematically excluded from meaningful political representation. Through grassroots organizing, voter education, and unwavering advocacy, the League worked to ensure that Black citizens could fully exercise their constitutional right to vote and participate in local governance.

Building upon earlier civil rights efforts in Greenwood led by local leaders and national organizations such as the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Greenwood Voters League focused on converting voter registration gains into political power. The League played a pivotal role in mobilizing voters, endorsing candidates, and challenging discriminatory electoral systems that diluted the voting strength of African American citizens.

One of the League's most significant contributions came through its leadership in litigation challenging Greenwood's at-large election system. In 1977, members of the Greenwood Voters League became plaintiffs in a landmark Voting Rights Act lawsuit against the City of Greenwood, asserting that the city's form of government denied Black voters an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. This legal action was part of a broader national struggle to enforce the promise of the Voting Rights Act and dismantle entrenched barriers to fair representation.

The long-term impact of the Greenwood Voters League is undeniable. Its work helped open the doors of local government to African American leadership and laid the foundation for greater political inclusion in Greenwood and throughout the Delta. Among those shaped by this movement was David Lee Jordan, an educator and civil rights advocate who went on to serve on the Greenwood City Council and later in the Mississippi State Senate, continuing the fight for voting rights, education, and equality.

The Greenwood Voters League stands as a powerful reminder that democracy is strengthened when ordinary citizens organize, persist, and demand accountability. Its legacy continues to inspire new generations to protect the right to vote and to participate fully in civic life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Greenwood Voters League for its historic contributions and enduring role in advancing justice, representation, and democratic participation in Mississippi and our Nation.

HONORING ABRAHAM SUAREZ

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abraham Z. Suarez, a World War II Veteran and Victoria Resident, as he celebrates his 100th birthday. His life reflects courage, sacrifice, and a deep commitment to family and country.

Abraham was born on March 16, 1926, in Tynan, Texas, and grew up on a farm near Seguin, Texas. The son of a hardworking sharecropper, Abraham learned the values of dedication and perseverance. He attended a one-room schoolhouse, walking two miles each day with his siblings.

Just weeks after turning 18, Abraham answered the call to serve our Nation during World War II. He was inducted into the Army Air Corps, and after training across the United States, he deployed to Okinawa. There, he served with the 1940th Ordnance Ammunition Company, helping distribute vital supplies to U.S. forces. For his service, he received the

World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and a Good Conduct Medal.

After the war, Abraham continued serving, first in Germany, then at Foster and Aloe Field Army Bases in Victoria, and later, Matagorda Island. During this time, he met his future wife, Josephine, at a movie theater in Victoria, and went on to build a loving family, raising ten children. His legacy continues on with 31 grandchildren, 71 great-grandchildren, and more than 30 great-great grandchildren. Today, we honor his extraordinary life and service, an example of the Texas spirit and the best of what the Coastal Bend has to offer. I wish a happy birthday to Mr. Suarez.

RECOGNIZING THE IRISH-BORN
SIGNATORIES OF THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the three Irish-born signatories of the Declaration of Independence. They were Matthew Thornton, James Smith, and George Taylor.

These individuals played a crucial role in freeing the colonies from the rule of the British monarchy and establishing the United States of America. Signed in Philadelphia in what was known at the time as the Pennsylvania State House, now Independence Hall, the Declaration of Independence stands as a testament to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

As the United States celebrates its semiquincentennial this year, we recognize those who found the courage to establish a more perfect union 250 years ago. The Irish-born signatories of the Declaration of Independence knew well the struggles of living under the colonial rule of the British Empire and understood the potential for America to thrive as a free and independent Nation. Irish identity includes a strong solidarity against oppression in all forms, and these signatories undoubtedly had this in mind during their participation in the Second Continental Congress.

St. Patrick's Day is an important reminder that we are a Nation of immigrants and that Irish Americans have a rich history in the United States. The deep community that has been fostered here since its founding remains strong to this day. Philadelphia, the birthplace of American democracy, stands proudly with its Irish American community in celebrating the Irish signatories of the Declaration of Independence.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of their contribution to the founding of the United States, we honor the Irish-born signatories of the Declaration of Independence.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK C.
ORRICO

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of Frank C. Orrico at the