

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

age 101, on February 21, 2026, in Gillette, New Jersey.

Frank Orrico was born on October 24, 1924, in South Plainfield, New Jersey. Frank was the eldest of three sons born to Sabbito and Josephine Orrico, who emigrated from Italy in the early 1900s. Growing up on Pleasant Avenue in Fanwood, in a close-knit family, he earned the affectionate nickname “Friendly Frank Formerly of Fanwood,” a tribute to his outgoing personality and genuine love of people.

Frank graduated from Scotch Plains Public High School before enlisting in the U.S. Army at 18 years old. He entered active service on March 3, 1943, at Fort Dix and was deployed overseas as a Private First Class with the 12th Infantry Regiment. He served with courage in the European African-Middle Eastern Campaign during World War II. For his bravery and sacrifice, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, along with the European African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon and four bronze stars.

After the war, Frank utilized the GI Bill and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from Pace University. He began his career in the Western Electric mail room and rose to management where he met his wife, Helen. They became married on May 4, 1958, and had three children.

A faithful parishioner of Christ the King Catholic church for nearly 45 years, Frank rarely missed Sunday 7:00 a.m. Mass. His deep sense of faith was a guiding force throughout his life, sustaining him through war, work, family life, and the many joys and sorrows of a century well lived.

Frank will be remembered for his courage, generosity, humor, and unwavering devotion to his faith, his family, and his country.

HONORING SPRINGS RESCUE MISSION OF COLORADO SPRINGS

HON. JEFF CRANK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate thirty years of ministry and community impact of Springs Rescue Mission in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Springs Rescue Mission has become a pillar of the Pike’s Peak region, not only by caring for the homeless but as a model of local business, government, healthcare, and faith-based collaboration, for the good of the community.

In a short thirty years, Springs Rescue Mission has become an expansive homeless resource campus—a Community of Hope for the most vulnerable men and women of Colorado Springs. With 450 beds, the Mission is now the largest homeless shelter in the region. The Resource Center offers case management and other essential services to help those in need to regain their health, return to work, and find permanent housing. Every day, hundreds of neighbors in need come to the Mission for a filling meal, a hot shower, a warm bed, and compassionate care. Just next door, 65 chronically homeless people have found a home at Greenway Flats. And in the middle of it all, a new 200-seat Samaritan’s Kitchen recently opened its doors to our community.

Jesus’ words in Matthew 25:34–40 have been the underlying inspiration for the staff,

volunteers, board, and donors to the Springs Rescue Mission,

Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, in as much as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’

Springs Rescue Mission has been champions for those trapped in homelessness, addiction, and poverty, and they have been models of collaboration and partnership across every walk of life to ensure people receive the care they need. For the many friends and neighbors of Colorado Springs, receiving support from Springs Rescue Mission is far more than shelter or food; it is about belonging in a place that accepts everyone and anyone, thanks to the leadership of Travis Williams, all the team members, and the many volunteers who dedicate their time and effort simply to giving back.

Today, I stand to honor and thank all of those associated with the Springs Rescue Mission for blessing Colorado’s 5th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING BEDFORD HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the students and faculty of Bedford Heights Elementary School in Bedford, Texas for their participation in our 2026 Valentines for Veterans program.

Through this initiative, students created more than 30 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 AND LEGACY OF RENE VASQUEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Rene Vasquez of Robstown, Texas.

Known throughout our community as the “Voice of Robstown,” Mr. Vasquez was a beloved broadcaster whose voice became synonymous with local sports and community pride. He began his broadcasting career in the 1980s as a baseball color commentator and later spent nearly forty years at Magic 104.9 Radio.

Mr. Vasquez’s became a trusted voice in our community as he covered Robstown sports, broadcasting championships, playoffs, and state title contests. He is now being nominated for induction into the Texas Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame.

Throughout much of his career, Mr. Vasquez faced serious health challenges, including diabetes and kidney disease. He persevered through these complications, often re-scheduling his dialysis so he could still be on air for Friday night football broadcasts. He always remained deeply committed to his work and the community he proudly represented. He will be remembered for his dedication, community spirit, and unwavering love of sports.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas’s 34th Congressional District, I honor Mr. Rene Vasquez’s remarkable life and commend his service, commitment to Robstown, and the amazing legacy he leaves behind.

HONORING MASTER SERGEANT SANDRA “SANDY” MCHUGH

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor and commend Master Sergeant Sandra “Sandy” McHugh, hometown hero of Collingswood. On Thursday, March 12, 2026, family, friends, and members of the community gathered at the Collingswood Senior Community Center in Collingswood, New Jersey, to honor and recognize Master Sergeant Sandy McHugh for her service to both her community and the United States of America.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and raised in the Baldwin neighborhood, Master Sergeant Sandy McHugh went on to attend Carnegie Mellon University for Graphic Design. She transferred to Temple University’s Tyler School of Art where she earned a bachelor’s in fine arts and master’s in film production. After graduating she began teaching art in Cherry Hill from first to sixth grade at Johnson Elementary.

While teaching art, Master Sergeant Sandy McHugh served in the Air National Guard and went back to school, attending Glassboro State to earn her master’s degree in education. Sandy taught at Johnson Elementary school for 30 years and simultaneously served