

and cultural skills that reflect positively on the program, the community, and the United States. Returned volunteers have come back changed and gone on to do great things in their communities here at home, including serving as Members of Congress.

This program has strengthened food security, improved health outcomes, and empowered the next generation in over 140 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific Islands, and I am honored to join in celebrating its 65th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT “BOB”
MORGAN

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of a dedicated community leader in my district, Mr. Robert “Bob” Morgan. A seasoned financial services executive, Bob has over 40 years of experience in mortgage banking and consumer credit risk management. A nine-year resident of Brooksville, Florida, Bob has brought his expertise in leadership, risk management, and strategic analysis to active community service. Since 2024, he has served as a Hernando County Citizen Advocate and, in June 2025, was appointed to the Hernando County DOGE Committee, where he reviews county operations, expenditures, and policies to promote efficiency and reduce government waste. Bob also serves on the Habitat for Humanity Gulfside—Hernando County Leadership Advisory Council, appointed in June 2025, supporting the organization’s mission by engaging with the community and helping evaluate prospective homeowners.

Through his advocacy and guidance, Bob has helped provide affordable homeownership for eight Hernando County families in 2025 and 2026. Bob is also actively involved in his local church community, volunteering with various church projects and serving as a member of the Knights of Columbus. He previously served on the Hernando County Planning & Zoning Commission, reviewing land use, zoning, and comprehensive plan matters. A graduate of Benedictine College with a B.A. in Business and a minor in Economics, Bob continues to lend his expertise to both industry and community organizations. Bob Morgan’s commitment to public service and his efforts to strengthen our community reflect a dedication to improving the lives of those around him. His leadership, generosity, and engagement make him a true asset to Hernando County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Robert Morgan for his exemplary contributions to our community. For his tireless work and dedication to improving the lives of others, I am proud to honor Mr. Morgan as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida’s 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT SELECT RICHELLE MONIQUE CALVO ESPERANZA

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize a distinguished service member, a proven leader, and a proud daughter of Guam—Richelle Monique Calvo Esperanza—on the occasion of her promotion to Chief Master Sergeant in the United States Air Force. This selection represents one of the highest achievements within the enlisted force. It is a distinction earned by a select few—those who have demonstrated not only technical expertise, but sustained leadership, integrity, and the trust of those they serve alongside.

Chief Master Sergeant Esperanza currently serves as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the 71st Force Support Squadron at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma. In this role, she leads a team of over 140 personnel—military, civilian, and contractors—supporting more than 7,000 Airmen and their families while managing millions of dollars in resources critical to mission readiness.

Her responsibilities span everything from personnel and family support to education, readiness, and casualty services—work that directly impacts the strength and resilience of our force.

But beyond the scope of her responsibilities is the journey that brought her here. Chief Master Sergeant Select Esperanza hails from Santa Rita, Guam. After graduating from Guam High School in 2007, she made the decision to serve—enlisting in the United States Air Force in April 2008.

Over the past 18 years of service and counting, she has built a career marked by steady progression, increasing responsibility, and operational excellence. She has served at the squadron, group, and wing levels. She has deployed in support of Operations New Dawn, Inherent Resolve, and Spartan Shield, contributing directly to U.S. military operations abroad. She has also distinguished herself academically—earning both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in management while completing the Air Force’s most rigorous professional military education programs. Her record reflects not just competence, but excellence—recognized through numerous awards, including Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year honors and a distinguished graduate distinction throughout her career. But what makes this moment especially meaningful is what she represents.

For Guam, a small island with a deep tradition of military service, leaders like Chief Master Sergeant Select Esperanza are a source of immense pride. She represents the values we hold close: service, humility, resilience, and a commitment to something greater than oneself. She represents the generations of families in Guam who have answered the call to serve. And she represents what is possible when talent, discipline, and opportunity come together. She is also grounded in family. She is married to Second Lieutenant Emery Esperanza, himself a prior enlisted Airman who recently earned his commission. Together, they are raising two children, Emelia

and Emery, continuing a legacy of service and leadership. She is the daughter of Ricardo and Carmelita Calvo of Santa Rita, whose pride today is shared by the entire island of Guam.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when our Nation depends on strong, capable leadership within our Armed Forces, the promotion of leaders like Chief Master Sergeant Select Esperanza sends a clear message—that excellence is honored, and that leadership matters. Her journey, from Guam to the highest enlisted rank in the Air Force, is not just a personal achievement. It is a reflection of the strength of our communities and the enduring contributions of Guam to the defense of our Nation.

I congratulate Chief Master Sergeant Select Richelle Monique Calvo Esperanza on this extraordinary milestone. We thank her for her service, we honor her leadership, and we do so with immense pride as she continues to represent Guam and our Nation with distinction in the years ahead.

HONORING VETERAN JAMES
SMITH, JR.

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the historic life and accomplishments of Veteran James Smith, Jr. of Terrell, Texas. Mr. Smith, Jr.’s life has been dedicated to service. Serving eight years in the Navy, he had various deployments and held the rank of E-5 at the time of his discharge.

He began his fearless journey in Boot Camp in San Diego, which was followed by an assignment in Whidbey, Washington. Mr. Smith, Jr. then served on a crash crew on the USS Boxer out of San Francisco, where he frequently wore asbestos suits as protection from frequent bombing raids. In the great state of Texas, he served two years at Naval Air Station Kingsville and another term with an air squadron in Virginia. Mr. Smith, Jr. was stationed in Patuxent River, Maryland, in his final two years of service and graduated from the Combat Airman School.

For his dedicated service to our Nation, he received several honors, including the National Defense Service Medal, China Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and Three-Star Attachments. It is my honor to recognize Mr. Smith, Jr.’s long life of service to our country and community, and I wish him the best in the coming years.

RECOGNIZING MRS. PATTIE
STEPBACH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of a dedicated community leader in my district, Mrs. Pattie Stepbach. Mrs. Stepbach has been a beacon of compassion, generosity, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of students in our community.

Through her extraordinary work with Operation Heartfelt, Mrs. Stepbach has directly and profoundly impacted the lives of students by ensuring they have access to essential food supplies each weekend. Each week, she coordinates, prepares, and delivers food bags for the Weekend Backpack Program, a vital initiative that helps bridge the nutritional gap for students facing food insecurity. Her consistent presence in this program brings stability, dignity, and hope to countless students who rely on this support to meet their basic needs. Mrs. Stepbach's dedication goes far beyond routine service. She leads efforts to gather donations, organize deliveries, foster partnerships, inspire volunteerism, and advocate for youth who might otherwise go unseen. Thanks to her leadership and Operation Heartfelt's commitment, Central High School students who once faced uncertain weekends now have reliable nourishment and the opportunity to focus on their academic and personal growth. Mrs. Stepbach embodies the qualities of a true hero: selfless service, tireless dedication, and a profound impact on the lives of others. Her efforts demonstrate that one person's kindness can create a ripple effect that strengthens an entire community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Pattie Stepbach for her outstanding contributions to our community. For her compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the students of Hernando County, I am proud to honor Mrs. Stepbach as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARROLL
E. "ED" HAWN, JR.

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Carroll E. "Ed" Hawn, Jr., a veteran, a hardworking member of his community, and someone who will be deeply missed.

Ed proudly served our country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War, and his service was something he carried with him throughout his life.

After returning home, Ed built a long career at Perdue Farms, where he worked his way up to become Shipping Superintendent before his well-deserved retirement.

Outside of work, he enjoyed the simple things in life. He especially loved hobbies like model trains, quilting, and machine embroidery.

He leaves behind his loving wife, Linda, their three children, and an extended family and community who will miss him dearly. Bronwen and I extend our prayers to them as they grieve his passing.

On behalf of South Carolina's 7th District, I express my deepest condolences and thank Ed and his family for his service to our country.

CELEBRATING CHARLES JACK
PODHAIZER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Charles Jack Podhaizer, a remarkable constituent. Charlie was born on March 23, 1926, and has lived a life marked by service, family, and generosity.

Charlie spent the early years of his life growing up in the Lower East Side of Manhattan as the youngest of 5 children. He spent his early years experiencing the melting pot of cultures from the immigrants arriving through Ellis Island and helped contribute to his family's wellbeing by selling items on the street whilst still finding time to enjoy basketball with his friends.

When the time came, Charlie answered our Nation's call and served valiantly in the Second World War. He was a member of D Company, 232 Infantry Regiment of the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division and fought during the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest. When he returned home, he married his high school sweetheart, Florence Weiss. Together, they moved to Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn and had three children—Gary, Steven, and Todd. Florence unfortunately passed away in 1963, and in 1965, he was remarried to Betty Sheridan who expanded his family with two daughters—Raelyne and Sharon.

In 1965, Charlie and his family became a part of our Bucks County community when they settled down in Yardley, Pennsylvania after years of Charlie commuting from Brooklyn to Eastern Pennsylvania each day for work. It was in Bucks County where Charlie started the Big C, a thriving department store in the Fairless Hills Shopping Center. Shortly thereafter, Charlie was able to expand his operations to two stores across the river in Trenton and Camden, New Jersey.

With his business success, Charlie was able to become very active with local charities as well as his local police department, making sure to help provide for those less fortunate than him and support the community. Charlie is honored to have been named Bucks County Man of the Year among other honors and accolades received for his commitment to the community.

It was later in his career when Charlie decided to step away from the Big C and start auctioneering, which allowed him to fully dedicate himself to this passion and connect with people at the various auctions he attended. He also started a wholesale business, where he traveled the United States to visit his customers. For every connection he made and place he visited, he was always noted for his integrity, passion, caring, honesty, and humor.

As he reaches the age of 100 years old, Charlie is blessed to have 10 grandchildren—Jamie, Adam, David, Derek, and Falynn along with their spouses—as well as 9 great grandchildren—Sofie, Zoe, Kira, Jack, Cameron, Ellie, Brenna, Olivia, and Drew. Following the passing of his wife Betty, he found love once more in his life with Irene Hastings. He has cherished every moment spent with her and the rest of his family since he retired at the age of 75.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in extending our heartfelt congratulations, sincere well-wishes, and God's blessings to Charles Jack Podhaizer on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

RECOGNIZING MR. RYAN
ABREMSKI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of a dedicated community leader in my district, Mr. Ryan Abremski. Ryan's outstanding leadership, generosity, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of seniors in Pasco County are quite remarkable. As President of the Pasco Aging Network (PAN) for the past two years, Ryan has devoted himself to strengthening the organization's impact, expanding its visibility, and enhancing services for the elder population in our community.

Founded in 1989, PAN is a coalition of public and private organizations committed to serving seniors, providing a vital forum for professionals to network, share ideas, and disseminate information about elder services. Under Ryan's leadership, PAN has experienced renewed energy, stronger engagement, and increased community awareness. He has worked tirelessly to ensure that monthly meetings are not only opportunities for networking, but also meaningful educational experiences that equip providers with the tools and knowledge necessary to better serve older adults. Ryan understands that collaboration is the cornerstone of effective community service. He has strengthened partnerships among healthcare providers, social service agencies, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses, ensuring that seniors in Pasco County benefit from a more connected and responsive support system.

His leadership has reinforced PAN's mission to expand information-sharing opportunities, promote education, and develop special projects that enhance services for the elder population. One of Ryan's most remarkable contributions has been his ability to translate vision into tangible results. Through the company he works for, he secured a \$60,000 donation for PAN, an extraordinary achievement that significantly expanded the organization's capacity to fulfill its mission. Beyond financial support, Ryan has worked diligently to increase community awareness about the needs of older adults and the resources available to them. He has been a visible and passionate advocate, consistently promoting PAN's activities and encouraging greater involvement from both public and private stakeholders. Ryan's leadership is characterized by integrity, collaboration, and genuine compassion. He leads not for recognition, but because he believes deeply in serving others—especially those who have contributed so much to our community throughout their lives. His work ensures that seniors in Pasco County have access to coordinated services, informed providers, and a network that is continuously striving to meet their evolving needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ryan Abremski for his dedication, vision, and transformative impact on