

40 hours of education and 40 hours of clinical training through participation in the program.

As a major component of the program, Virginia AHEC created a statewide, a synchronous Community Health Worker Training Program. Since the creation of the program three years ago, VA AHEC has trained over 300 Community Health Workers.

The Southwest Virginia AHEC is located at the Bradley Free Clinic. The Bradley Free Clinic works with students from 28 academic programs spanning medicine, dentistry, residency training, counseling, and public health, providing hands-on clinical and community-based learning experiences. My son personally experienced the benefits of this hands-on learning environment to prepare him for a career in healthcare.

On behalf of my constituents at Virginia AHEC program and the national AHEC program more broadly, I call on my colleagues to join me in recognizing March 23, 2026 through March 27, 2026, as National AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) Week.

RECOGNIZING MS. CHRIS HOGARTH

**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 volunteer in my district, Ms. Chris Hogarth. Chris has been an invaluable volunteer at the ReStores, dedicating her time, energy, and organizational skills to support the community and ensure the stores operate efficiently. Chris has taken exceptional care of the book room, keeping it organized and welcoming for shoppers. She has also overseen the games and toys section, carefully sorting and displaying items to make them accessible and enjoyable for families. In addition, Chris has played a crucial role in managing all holiday donations, helping to bring seasonal joy and support to the community.

Her consistent commitment, attention to detail, and tireless service have made a meaningful impact on the ReStores' operations and the customers they serve. Chris Hogarth exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism and selfless service that strengthens our communities and touches countless lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Chris Hogarth for her outstanding contributions and dedication to serving others. For her generosity, commitment, and exemplary service, I am proud to honor Ms. Hogarth as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING CHARLES RICHTER ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. MICHAEL CLOUD**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2026*

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Charles Richter, a World War II veteran and Victoria resident, as he celebrates his 100th birthday. His life reflects service, perse-

verance, and a deep commitment to family and country.

Charles was born on March 23, 1926, in Yoakum, Texas, into a German American family with deep roots in South Texas. He spent his early years in Brownsville before moving to Victoria. As the oldest of six children, during the years surrounding the Great Depression and World War II, he helped support his family while completing his education.

The day after graduating from Victoria High School in 1944, Charles enlisted in the United States Navy and served during the final year of World War II as a boiler room technician aboard destroyer escorts protecting merchant convoys in the Atlantic Theater.

Following the war, Charles earned a business degree from Texas A&I University in Kingsville, married in 1951, and then began a career as a transportation superintendent. After retirement, he operated a cattle ranch and dedicated his time to mentoring youth as an assistant Scoutmaster. In recognition of his lifelong commitment to service, Charles was awarded the "Spirit of Scouting" Award by the Rio Grande Council's South Texas Council on January 22, 2026.

As he celebrates a century of life, we honor his legacy of hard work, humility, and devotion to his family, community, and country. I wish Charles a happy birthday.

RECOGNIZING MS. PEGGY GAUSE

**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 an exceptional volunteer in my district, Ms. Peggy Gause. Since 2012, Peggy has devoted 14 years of her time and talent to helping Friends Grief Services provide programs and resources to people of all ages who have experienced loss and grief.

Following the sudden death of her husband and daughter, Peggy reached out to help others as a way to heal herself. She has provided invaluable clerical support and record management assistance, including entering information into electronic records, answering phones, assisting with reports, and couriers interoffice mail. Peggy also serves on the organization's Advisory Board, actively participates in fundraising activities, and continues to advocate for grief services.

Peggy has served as President of L.I.F.T. (Living Information for Today), a support group for widows and widowers sponsored by Dignity Memorial. She has helped create programs that foster social connections, such as "Game Day" and "Café Break," and recently coordinated Friends Grief Services' first Arts & Crafts Fair. Affectionately known in the office as "Peggy H2O" to distinguish her from another volunteer, she exemplifies dedication, compassion, and selfless service. Peggy's tireless work reflects her commitment to helping others navigate grief and loss. She is an exceptional volunteer and a true hero in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Peggy Gause for her outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication to Friends Grief Services. For her inspira-

tional commitment to others, I am proud to honor Ms. Gause as a 2026 Heroes Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District. Her compassion, energy, and leadership have made a lasting impact, and our community is stronger because of her efforts.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN MONTGOMERY

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2026*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Benjamin Montgomery and to commend him on more than 35 years of public service as he retires on March 31, 2026.

Mr. Montgomery first started working for the City of Chino Hills in 2006 as the Neighborhood Services Manager, which would lead to more than 20 years of dedicated service to the city. In 2014, he joined the City Manager's Office as the Assistant to the City Manager until being promoted to Deputy City Manager in 2015, and Assistant City Manager in 2017. In April 2019, he was appointed as the City Manager of Chino Hills by the City Council, where he has served for the past seven years.

Prior to his service with Chino Hills, Mr. Montgomery worked for other communities across Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties. His strong understanding of municipal operations, regional partnerships, and locally-focused governance has benefited residents across the Inland Empire.

Throughout his time with the City of Chino Hills, Mr. Montgomery led various programs, departments, and divisions, including: community relations, emergency management, code enforcement, water conservation, information technology, human resources, and major service contracts for solid waste, risk management, public safety, and animal care and control.

As City Manager of Chino Hills, Ben guided the city through challenging periods, including record-breaking fire emergencies and a global pandemic. He safeguarded the city's financial obligations and commitments to public safety, leading to a long list of remarkable accomplishments including local transit improvement projects and stronger homeless service partnerships.

Beyond his remarkable service to Chino Hills, he also is known for his dedication to mentoring local public service professionals at all levels through organizations such as the Municipal Management Association of Southern California and the League of California Cities, where he remains an active member. Mr. Montgomery is also an engaged member of the broader Chino Valley community as seen by his involvement with the Rancho del Chino Rotary Club and the Chino Valley YMCA Board of Managers.

For his remarkable career marked by more than 35 years of public service, it is my honor to recognize Mr. Benjamin Montgomery. His commitment to Chino Hills, the Inland Empire, and beyond is worthy of the highest commendation.

RECOGNIZING MS. MISS COYLE

**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, Ms. Missy Coyle. Missy has devoted the past 14 years to coalition and volunteer work, using her time, talent, and expertise to strengthen the Pasco County community.

As the current Coordinator for the Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention, Missy oversees the largest prevention organization in the county. She coordinates community events, leads initiatives to support those in need, and consistently shows up day in and day out at the All Ways Center to provide assistance, guidance, and compassion to individuals facing challenges.

Missy's dedication extends to times of crisis. During the 2024 hurricane season, she played a critical role in transforming the All Ways Center into a hurricane respite center, helping hundreds of residents access essential resources and support when they needed it most. A veteran and a nurse, Missy brings her skills, discipline, and empathy to every aspect of her service, ensuring that her community receives care, stability, and hope. Her tireless commitment, leadership, and selflessness make a profound difference in the lives of those she serves. Missy Coyle exemplifies the spirit of "Heroes Among Us," giving of herself to improve her community and uplift those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Missy Coyle for her outstanding dedication and service. For her compassion, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the people of Pasco County, I am proud to honor Missy Coyle as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAKA NAKODAR DAY

**HON. JOSH HARDER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2026*

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to solemnly commemorate the 40th anniversary of Saka Nakodar and to stand in remembrance with the Sikh community at the Stockton Gurdwara Sahib.

On February 4, 1986, four young Sikh students—Ravinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Jhilman Singh, and Harminder Singh—were shot and killed by Indian security forces in Nakodar, Punjab. They were peacefully protesting the desecration of the sacred Sikh scripture, the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, when their lives were tragically taken. "Saka," the Punjabi word for massacre, has since come to define that painful day in Nakodar and the injustice that followed.

Forty years later, we remember these young men not only for the manner in which they died, but for the principles they stood for: faith, dignity, and the fundamental right to peacefully assemble and express their grievances. Their

loss reverberated throughout the Sikh diaspora and remains a deeply felt wound for families who continue to seek truth, accountability, and justice.

Here in Stockton, home to one of the oldest and most vibrant Sikh communities in the United States, the remembrance of Saka Nakodar carries profound meaning. The Stockton Gurdwara Sahib has long served as a spiritual anchor and a gathering place for reflection, resilience, and community solidarity. For generations, it has been a space where faith and civic engagement walk hand in hand, and where the values of seva, justice, and equality are upheld.

As we mark this 40th anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting the civil and human rights of all people. The tragedy of Saka Nakodar stands as a reminder that peaceful protest is a cornerstone of democracy and that freedom of religion and expression must always be defended. We also honor the strength of the Sikh community, whose perseverance in the face of hardship reflects a legacy of courage and unity.

Today, we stand with the families of Ravinder Singh, Balbir Singh, Jhilman Singh, and Harminder Singh. We honor their memory, we acknowledge the pain carried for four decades, and we renew the call for truth and accountability.

I am honored to join the Stockton Gurdwara in commemorating the 40th anniversary of Saka Nakodar and to ensure that the sacrifices of these young men are never forgotten.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2026*

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on March 17, 2026 through March 19, 2026.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 88; YEA on Roll Call No. 89; NAY on Roll Call No. 90; NAY on Roll Call No. 91; YEA on Roll Call No. 92; NAY on Roll Call No. 93; NAY on Roll Call No. 94; NAY on Roll Call No. 95; and NAY on Roll Call No. 96.

## RECOGNIZING MS. KELLY MOTHERSHEAD

**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 exceptional contributions of a dedicated community leader in my district, Ms. Kelly Mothershead. Kelly is an extraordinary advocate for the Pasco County community, demonstrating a tireless commitment to improving the lives of her neighbors and strengthening local organizations.

For many years, Kelly has served on the Board of the Alliance for Healthy Communities, consistently showing up at events, assisting with fundraising, and lending her expertise and energy to support the organization's mission. Her dedication goes beyond tradi-

tional board responsibilities; she has created a scholarship fund to provide transitional living opportunities for those in need, ensuring vulnerable members of our community have a pathway to stability and independence.

Everything Kelly does, she does with heart, soul, and unwavering compassion. Her efforts have a lasting impact on the community, fostering hope, opportunity, and stronger support systems for Pasco County residents. Kelly Mothershead exemplifies the spirit of service and selflessness that defines a true community hero.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Kelly Mothershead for her outstanding dedication to the people of Pasco County. For her generosity, leadership, and tireless advocacy, I am proud to honor Kelly Mothershead as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAJOR IRENIO BORJA SAN NICOLAS

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2026*

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Major Irenio Borja San Nicolas, as we approach the anniversary of his passing on April 7, 2025.

Major San Nicolas lived a life defined by service—service to this Nation and to our beloved island of Guam. His story reflects a generation of individuals who stepped forward when called and carried that responsibility with quiet strength.

A proud son of Guam, he was shaped by the values that define our island—respect for others, resilience in the face of hardship, and a deep sense of responsibility to family and community. These values guided him as he answered the call to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

During his military career, he took on leadership roles that required not only skill, but trust. He served during the Vietnam era, demonstrating discipline, courage, and a steadfast commitment to those he led. Notably, Major San Nicolas made history as the first CHamorro commissioned officer to command Marines on Guam. This achievement reflects not only his professional excellence, but also the barriers he helped break and the path he helped pave for future generations of leaders from our island.

Leadership in the Marine Corps is earned, not given and he earned that trust through integrity, capability, and a deep sense of duty. But what makes his legacy especially meaningful is that his service did not end when he returned home.

Following his military career, he continued to serve the people of Guam. In Talo'fo'fo and beyond, he remained engaged in community and civic life, contributing in ways that strengthened the island he loved. His leadership was steady and often quiet—grounded not in recognition, but in responsibility. He represented a kind of leadership that is deeply felt across our communities—a reliable presence, someone who showed up, who contributed, and who led by example.