

Raised in the Historic Westside of Las Vegas, Pastor McCurdy was a proud product of the city he would dedicate his life to serving. He graduated from Valley High School and later attended Western Nevada College in Carson City.

Pastor McCurdy's commitment to service began early and was rooted deeply in his faith. In 1978, he began serving as a pastor, guiding congregations with compassion, wisdom, and a steadfast commitment to uplifting those in need. Through his ministry, he counseled families, mentored young people, and helped countless members of the community find hope.

Beyond the pulpit, Pastor McCurdy was deeply engaged in civic life. Over the years, he served on numerous boards and advisory bodies that helped shape Southern Nevada's growth and development. His leadership included service on the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Regional Transportation Commission, the board of Habitat for Humanity, the Mineral County Economic Advisory Committee, the City of Las Vegas Community Block Grant Advisory Board, and the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority Commission. Through these roles, he helped advance policies that expanded opportunity, strengthened neighborhoods, and supported working families throughout the region.

Moreover, Pastor McCurdy was a respected strategist and communications professional. Through his work with McCurdy & McCurdy Media Group, he helped countless public servants share their vision and encouraged community members to engage in the democratic process. His work empowered new voices and helped build a more representative political system throughout the Silver State.

Yet those who knew him best remember not only his professional accomplishments, but his generosity of spirit. Pastor McCurdy was devoted to his wife, Ms. Billy McCurdy, and was a proud father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He also dedicated numerous years of service to the Church of God in Christ, Inc., as the First Administrative Assistant for Nevada's First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. He was a mentor, a teacher, and a steady voice of wisdom for many who sought his guidance. Pastor McCurdy believed that leadership meant showing up for your community through listening, advocating, and working every day to make life better for others.

Mr. Speaker, Pastor McCurdy leaves behind a lasting imprint on the City of Las Vegas and the State of Nevada. His life reminds us that meaningful change often begins in community—with individuals who care deeply about their neighbors and are willing to dedicate themselves to public service. May we continue to honor his life and celebrate his legacy. I extend sincerest condolences for a life well lived.

HONORING MAJOR ALEXANDER  
FELDMAN

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor an exceptional Marine and a valued member of our congressional family, Alexander Feldman, on the occasion of

his well-earned promotion to the rank of Major. This milestone is a testament to his devotion, professionalism, and unyielding commitment to serving our Nation. Advancing to this level of leadership reflects both the trust placed in Alex by the Marine Corps and the exceptional standard he has consistently demonstrated throughout his career.

During his time serving as my Department of Defense Legislative Fellow, Major Feldman distinguished himself as a professional of the highest caliber. His quick wit, sharp judgment, and unwavering commitment to excellence made him an invaluable asset to our team. Whether navigating complex national security challenges or offering thoughtful insight on matters affecting our Armed Forces, Alex consistently exhibited a level of competence and character that set him apart.

It is no surprise to those of us who had the privilege of working alongside him that he has now been promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Marine Corps. This achievement reflects not only his remarkable abilities, but also his unbreakable dedication to serving our Nation.

While we deeply miss his presence in our office, we take great pride in knowing that he will continue to do great things wherever he goes. The Marine Corps, and our country, are stronger because of leaders like Major Feldman.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Alexander Feldman for his service to Virginia's 1st District and the Nation. I pray for his continued success in all that lies ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE USS  
MASSACHUSETTS (SSN-798)

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798) Virginia Class nuclear submarine and her crew on the historic occasion of her commissioning, in Boston Harbor, in her namesake Commonwealth of Massachusetts, on March 28, 2026. It has been more than 50 years since the last USS *Massachusetts* (BB-59) served the Nation as a Ship of the Line.

The eighth United States Naval vessel to carry the name, dating back to 1791, the USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798) will build upon the proud legacy of its previous seven ships christened USS *Massachusetts*, representing a Commonwealth with claims on the birthplace of the United States Navy, and which is the home of the great USS *Constitution*, the oldest commissioned ship in the fleet.

This warship will further underscore Massachusetts' rich maritime tradition, naval service and commitment of its citizens by her motto, inspired by President Kennedy's Inaugural Address, emblazoned on the ship's crest: Pro Patria "For Country."

Naming the Navy's latest, most advanced submarine the USS *Massachusetts* provides a proud continuity, as two of the U.S. Submarine Medal of Honor recipients (of only eight in history) serving in World War II are tied to the Commonwealth; then Commander Vice Admiral Lawson "Red" Paterson Ramage, was born in Monroe, Massachusetts, and then

Lieutenant Commander Captain George Levick Street, III was a long-time resident of the Commonwealth in Andover.

Fully embracing our rich maritime heritage and steadfast service to the Nation, dating back to the Revolutionary War, the USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798) Commissioning Committee is working to develop a strong bond between the ship and the Commonwealth, and to cultivate a strong and sustained relationship between the citizens of the Commonwealth and the crew of the USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798).

Mr. Speaker, this state-of-the-art Virginia Class nuclear attack submarine, christened USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798), has completed acceptance trials and been delivered to our Nation's Navy by the builder, Huntington Ingalls Industry. Its world-class, leading-edge stealth and other technological innovations will be a key component of the United States Naval Fleet, capable of a wide array of critical missions. I am confident that all citizens of the Commonwealth, and all Americans, will be proud of the future role of the USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798) and her crew members in protecting our Nation.

I again would like to recognize the profound historical significance of the commissioning of warship USS *Massachusetts* (SSN-798) and extend our best wishes for good fortune for all those that sail aboard her, for fair winds and following seas during her service to our Nation, and that service should commence with her commissioning in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on March 28, 2026 in Boston Harbor. God-speed.

RECOGNIZING NIJA BRANCA  
BILOFSKY

**HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Women's History Month to honor an exceptional and influential leader from Rochester, New York: Nija Branca Bilofsky.

Nija has devoted her career to education and to inspiring the next generation of students. Over nearly three decades in the classroom, including many years at the School of the Arts, she has taught ninth and tenth grade English with a commitment to both academic excellence and student growth. Her teaching fosters critical thinking, creativity, and confidence, empowering students to find their voice and reach their full potential.

Beyond her work with students, Nija is a trusted and supportive colleague who consistently uplifts those around her. Her dedication to her school community, paired with her compassion and professionalism, makes her an invaluable presence both inside and outside the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, Nija Branca Bilofsky's career reflects a deep and enduring commitment to education, mentorship, and community. During Women's History Month, it is especially fitting that we honor extraordinary women who have gone above and beyond to strengthen our communities. I am proud to recognize her and extend my deepest gratitude for her continued service.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MAJOR  
JOHN "ALEX" KLINNER

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Major John "Alex" Klinner. Major Klinner was deployed in support of Operation Epic Fury when his KC-135 crashed in Western Iraq on March 12, 2026. Major Klinner was one of six airmen killed, and one of three members of the 6th Air Refueling Wing performing duties for the 99th Air Refueling Squadron of Birmingham, Alabama.

Major Klinner grew up in Auburn, Alabama, with parents, Johnny and Mary Ellen Klinner. He graduated from Auburn High School in 2011 and Auburn University in 2016 with a degree in mechanical engineering. For many years, he served as a counselor at Camp Mac in Munford. He was also a leader in many student organizations.

Major Klinner joined the Air Force in 2017 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program and completed pilot training in November 2018. He was a combat veteran many times over, logging 543 hours of combat and combat support hours. At the time of his passing, he had recently been promoted to Major.

Many in the Auburn and Birmingham communities knew Alex to be kind, devoted servant-leader to those around him. He is survived by his wife, Libby, and their three young children, as well as his parents, along with two sisters and their families. My prayers are with his family and friends as they face this tragic loss.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life and service of Major John "Alex" Klinner and extending our deepest condolences to his family. We remain grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING PETE BENAVIDEZ

**HON. GABE VASQUEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. VASQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pete Benavidez for his outstanding contributions to New Mexico's veteran community and his service to our country. Pete is a veteran who devotes his free time to advocating for and helping other veterans in his community.

Pete is originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and he now lives in Belen. For over twenty years, Pete served and protected our country in both the Army and the New Mexico National Guard. During his service, he worked as a Track Vehicle Repairer and was deployed to combat.

While conducting a recovery operation for a vehicle, Pete was injured by an Improvised Explosive Device, which caused severe brain damage and resulted in him being medically discharged from the military. Pete attempted to work several jobs after his discharge but could not maintain employment because of his combat-related disability. As Pete faced health challenges, he sought help from his local Department of Veterans Affairs and the Raymond

G. Murphy VA Medical Center. There he received treatment that improved his health, allowed him to continue working towards being a family man, and pushed him to serve his community.

To this day, Pete remains an active force in New Mexico's veteran community and shares his story to bring awareness to the greatest issues impacting veterans. During my time in Congress, he has worked closely with my office to advocate for the Major Richard Star Act and other measures to improve veterans' lives. In his free time, he supports other veterans in his community by helping them apply for VA benefits, educating them on services available to them, and even driving veterans to their appointments and veteran group meetings. Pete's commitment to service continues through his son, who is now serving in the New Mexico National Guard.

On behalf of the people of New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, I would like to thank Pete for his service to our country and his commitment to ensuring our brave men and women receive the care and support they deserve.

RECOGNIZING AREA HEALTH  
EDUCATION CENTERS WEEK

**HON. SUSIE LEE**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize March 23rd to March 27th as National AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) Week.

Southern Nevadans are facing a dire shortage of health care providers, which means longer wait times, fewer choices, and less access to quality care.

According to new Association of American Medical Colleges, the U.S. could see a shortage of up to 124,000 physicians by 2034, and the American Hospital Association says more than 200,000 new registered nurses are needed each year to meet increasing health care needs and to replace nurses entering retirement.

To solve this crisis, underserved communities like ours need to expand the resources we offer so that medical providers can learn and grow their careers in southern Nevada. AHECs are a part of that solution, expanding the health care workforce, especially in rural and underserved communities.

That has been and will continue to be key as we fight to ensure every Nevadan has access to the health care they need. The AHEC program has already trained millions of health care professionals. Across our state, from Elko to Reno to Las Vegas, the AHEC program is strengthening the future of our health care workforce which will help the health of all Nevadans.

That is why I am proud to support this program and why, year after year, I have fought to secure essential federal investments in the national AHEC program.

On behalf of my constituents at the Nevada AHEC program, their national counterparts, and the thousands of Americans who benefit from the care fostered by AHECs, I am proud to recognize this National Area Health Education Centers Week.

I thank them all for their dedication to keeping our communities healthy.

RECOGNIZING DIANE KORNEGAY

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Lake County Superintendent Diane Kornegay for being named Florida's 2026 Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District Schools Superintendents.

The Florida Association of District School Superintendents has honored outstanding leadership in public education through this program since 1988. Ms. Kornegay's selection reflects her dedication to students, her commitment to excellence, and her significant contributions to education.

Ms. Kornegay has served as Lake County's superintendent since December 2016 and has more than 35 years of experience in public education. She is also active in state and local education organizations and has received numerous awards recognizing her leadership and service.

Under her leadership, Lake County Schools earned an A-rating from the Florida Department of Education in 2025 for the first time since 2008. The district has also seen strong improvements in graduation rates and overall academic performance. Additionally, accelerated programs such as AICE, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate, invested in new schools and campus improvements, and enhanced safety measures.

It is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Kornegay for this remarkable achievement, and I thank her for her dedicated service to Lake County's students and families. I am honored to represent Lake County in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING CHARLES H. MILBY  
HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 27, 2026*

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Charles H. Milby High School as it celebrates a full century since opening its doors in March 1926.

In Houston's East End, Milby High School is more than a school. It is a landmark. And reaching 100 years is not just a milestone, it is a rare achievement that speaks to the strength of this institution and the neighborhoods that fuel it. Milby began with just 13 teachers and a little over 200 students, replacing Harrisburg High School just a few blocks away. One hundred years later, it stands as one of the most recognized and respected schools in Houston, serving students. Generations have walked those same halls, and many come back to serve the same school that shaped them. That pride runs deep.

Milby has built a reputation for opening doors. With strong academics, STEM and career programs, and partnerships tied to Houston's industries, it has prepared students for