

which includes Martinez, Pleasant Hill, Port Costa, and part of Concord. Throughout his tenure, he has provided critical leadership on numerous committees, including the Public Information & Conservation, Operations & Engineering, Finance, and the Retirement & OPEB Joint Advisory Committees. John currently serves as Chair of the Public Information & Conservation Committee.

As a retired engineer, John brought vital expertise to the Board, drawing on 42 years of experience working on water and wastewater projects throughout the world. Further, he has worked for an environmental engineering consulting firm for the last years 30 years, retiring from the firm as Vice President. John's wealth of knowledge has provided him with the tools necessary to guide the district as it prioritized regional collaboration, transparency in spending, and making evidence-based decisions that will benefit customers for generations to come.

Additionally, as a Concord resident for over 35 years, John has worked tirelessly to give back to our community and our country. He is a past President of the Contra Costa County Historical Society, a member of the Pleasant Hill Rotary Club and is a volunteer driver for Meals on Wheels, delivering meals to senior citizens. John is also an Air Force veteran, serving our Nation with honor.

Please join me in thanking Director John A. Burgh for his dedicated service on the Contra Costa Water District Board and his steadfast commitment to our community and country.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MICHAEL FRY

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize Michael Fry of Fulton as the Veteran of the Month for April and to honor him for his extraordinary and enduring service to our great Nation.

Michael Fry enlisted in the United States Marine Corps during his senior year of high school and served with distinction from 2005 to 2018. Throughout his 13-year career, he was trained as a Signals Intelligence Analyst, a Special Intelligence Systems Communicator, and a Persian-Farsi Crypto-Linguist. He deployed to Iraq with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and later to Afghanistan with Special Operations Task Force—West in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Michael also served as the Staff Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (SNCOIC) of Recruiting Sub-Station (RSS) North Columbus, where he led his Marines to earn RSS of the Year during his final year on recruiting duty. Michael attained the rank of Staff Sergeant and was honorably discharged in September 2018 after more than a decade of faithful service.

Following his military career, Michael continued to serve his community as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst with the Michigan State Police, supporting the Southwest Enforcement Team and assisting multi-jurisdictional efforts to combat transnational organized crime and major drug trafficking networks. He now serves as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst with

the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, where he plays a vital role in supporting investigations.

Michael's leadership extends far beyond his professional service. Since returning to Michigan, he has remained deeply engaged in the veteran community. He served five years on the Kalamazoo County Veterans Affairs Committee, including three as Chair, and currently serves as the Detachment Commandant of the Marine Corps League's Kalamazoo Detachment No. 879. He is also the Vice Chair of the Kalamazoo Veterans Coalition, where he advocates tirelessly on behalf of local veterans and their families. His commitment to ensuring veterans receive the care, recognition, and support they deserve is an inspiration to all who know him.

In service to his community, Michael received the Kalamazoo County Veteran of the Year award in 2024 and the Marine of the Year award from the Marine Corps League's Kalamazoo Detachment No. 879 in 2025.

Michael Fry's life of service clearly demonstrates the Marine Corps' motto of being always faithful. His leadership working on behalf of America's veterans inspires us all. May others know of my high regard for Michael, as well as my deep gratitude for his lasting contributions to the country we love.

HONORING THE HOMECOMING OF
THE 204TH TRANSPORTATION
COMPANY

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the safe return of the 204th Transportation Company of the 1st Mission Support Command, as they return home to Puerto Rico following their deployment to the Middle East.

Under the leadership of Brigadier General Christopher B. Creaghe and with the support of his Chief of Operations, Colonel Laura Miller, these soldiers carried out a mission essential to sustaining operations abroad. As fuelers, their work ensured that critical systems remained operational in challenging and demanding environments.

Puerto Rico has a proud and enduring tradition of military service. Time and again, our men and women in uniform have answered the call with courage and conviction. The soldiers of the 204th Transportation Company embody that legacy, carrying with them not only the responsibility of the mission, but also the spirit of our Island wherever they serve.

As they return to Puerto Rico, we welcome them back not just to a place, but to a community that has stood with them every step of the way. In Puerto Rico, service is shared by families who wait, by communities who support, and by an Island that carries deep pride for those who wear the uniform.

Homecoming is a moment filled with meaning. It is the embrace of loved ones, the familiarity of home, and the quiet understanding of all that has been given in service. It is a reminder that while their mission abroad may have concluded, their place within our communities remains as strong as ever.

I commend Brigadier General Creaghe and the leadership of the 1st Mission Support

Command for their unwavering commitment to our servicemembers and their families throughout every stage of service.

As Resident Commissioner, I remain committed to ensuring that Puerto Rico's servicemembers, veterans, and their families are supported, not only while they serve abroad, but also as they return home, where their reintegration, well-being, and continued success matter deeply.

On behalf of the people of Puerto Rico, I extend my gratitude to the soldiers of the 204th Transportation Company. Their service honors our Island, and their return strengthens it. To the servicemembers, "welcome home," "bienvenidos a casa."

HONORING MS. CHARVE' GIBSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Charve' Gibson, a student at Jefferson County High School.

Charve' Gibson is proudly celebrated by the Jefferson County School District, family, friends and community for being first Mississippian selected for the prestigious Nike Nationals Program. This program is an elite national platform reserved for the top high school track and field athletes in the country and designed to prepare them for collegiate and professional competitions.

Charve' earned this distinction after concluding her sophomore season ranked No. 7 in the Nation in the triple jump with a mark of 42 feet, 1.25 inches, and recording a long jump of 19 feet, 8 inches. After a seven-month break from competition, she recently returned to the track and continues her remarkable journey as a 46 time All American.

Charve' competed at the Nike Indoor Nationals in New York in March, representing Jefferson County and the state of Mississippi on a national stage. Special thanks to her coach, Coach Eddie Ray Jackson, for teaching her how to jump and the ongoing investment in her future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Charve' Gibson, for her dedication, discipline and excellence she continues to display. This honor reflects her hard work while showcasing the rising potential and excellence of the entire Tiger Nation in Jefferson County.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ALFRED "AL" G. DESSAYER

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Alfred "Al" G. Dessayer.

Al was born in Paris, France on August 26, 1939. His family immigrated to the United States in 1949, settling in Glendale, California. He then spent a year at UCLA before receiving an NROTC competitive appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Al served on destroyers

in the West Coast and graduated with the Class of 1961 as a member of the 15th Company.

Al served as the Town of Moraga's first treasurer and played a critical role in Moraga's efforts to incorporate in 1974. He also served as a planning commissioner between 1980 to 1981. In 1982, he was elected to the town council, holding a seat for 12 years. Al was a three-time Mayor of Moraga, holding the position in 1985, 1988, and 1993. Under his leadership, the Town was able to identify an opportunity to purchase excess land from the State, which resulted in the creation of Moraga Commons Park, a beloved staple of the Town today. He was instrumental in guiding the town as it grew and he continually showed his steadfast commitment to improving quality of life for Moraga residents.

Beyond his service in local government and on town council, Al was dedicated to giving back to our community. He was a member of Friends of the Moraga Library and the Moraga Historical Society, coached children's sports, led a local swim club, and served on the board of directors for Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection) for 34 years. Al was recognized as Moraga's Citizen of the Year in 1997 for his invaluable service in our community. In his free time, Al enjoyed traveling, visiting all 50 states and over 75 countries. He was also an avid golfer, gardener, and backpacker.

Sadly, Al passed away on February 25, 2026, at the age of 86. Please join us in honoring Al for his unwavering dedication to service, outstanding leadership, and for his invaluable contributions to our region.

HONORING THE SPCA OF YORK COUNTY FOR THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the SPCA of York County, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

Since its creation a century ago, the SPCA of York County has been committed to the safety and dignity of the county's animals. The SPCA serves the animal welfare needs of the county while also providing a crucial public safety service in the community.

The SPCA of York County is the county's only animal shelter, responsible for all animal welfare such as medical care, adoption, and public education. Despite being the sole shelter in York County, the SPCA is regarded as one of the best in the Nation. In 2025, its low-cost, high-volume spay and neuter clinic was the most efficient in the country, performing more than thirteen thousand surgeries.

In 2022, the SPCA of York County was officially recognized as a no-kill shelter. For a shelter to reach no-kill status, at least 90 percent of animals admitted to the shelter must have a live outcome. This high threshold ensures that animals in the care of the shelter are given every possible chance for adoption through medical care and rehabilitation. Since 2022, not only has the York SPCA maintained their status as a no-kill shelter, but they have maintained a save rate of at least 93 percent each year.

I commend the staff, volunteers, and everyone serving the SPCA's mission for their continued work to ensure that York County's animals are treated with dignity. Their advocacy and commitment to animal wellbeing gives a voice to those without one.

I congratulate the SPCA of York County on this historic milestone. I wish them the best in all their future endeavors as they continue to build on their century long legacy of care.

RECOGNIZING MRS. FRANCES KEES

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the remarkable life of Mrs. Frances Kees of Magee, Mississippi, as she reaches the extraordinary milestone of her 100th birthday on April 6, 2026. Mrs. Kees has lived a life distinguished by faith, dedication to education, service to her community, and a steadfast commitment to sharing the Gospel. Her century of life reflects a legacy of leadership and faithful service that has touched generations in Simpson County and beyond.

A native of Mendenhall in Simpson County, Frances began her lifelong calling in education at the young age of nineteen. At the request of then-school superintendent Carlton Traylor, she moved to Magee to teach while completing her coursework as a history major during the summers. What began as a temporary opportunity soon became a lifelong home, as she quickly fell in love with the community and the people of Magee.

In 1948, she married Robert "Bob" Kees, a veteran of the United States Air Force who flew twenty-eight missions during World War II. Together they built a loving family and raised three children, Kay, Bobby, and Jane. Following the untimely passing of her husband, Frances demonstrated extraordinary strength and determination as she continued to guide and support her family.

Throughout her life, Frances has remained actively involved in the local community. During summers she worked at Stephens Department Store and later at Rose Ladies Apparel in Magee. Through these experiences, she developed a love of fashion and writing, eventually contributing articles for the local newspaper, the Magee Courier.

Perhaps the most enduring impact of Frances's life has been through her faith and ministry. For seventy years, she faithfully served as a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church of Magee. Through her leadership of a ladies' Sunday School class, she helped guide generations of women in studying Scripture and growing in their faith. Her dedication to sharing the Gospel and encouraging others through the Word of God has left a lasting legacy within her church and community.

In addition to her ministry in the church, Frances also served the State of Mississippi as a docent at the historic Mississippi Governor's Mansion. Beginning during the administration of Ray Mabus, she welcomed visitors from across the state and Nation, sharing stories about Mississippi's history and heritage with warmth and enthusiasm. For more than

two decades, she guided countless guests through the mansion, offering insight into the state's past while representing the hospitality and pride of the people of Mississippi.

Those who know Mrs. Kees often remark on her enduring optimism and her steadfast belief that life is a gift. Her faith has sustained her through both joys and hardships, and she has consistently encouraged others to approach life with hope and gratitude.

I am honored to celebrate Mrs. Frances Kees on her 100th birthday and thank her for a lifetime of faith, teaching, and service to the people of Mississippi.

CELEBRATING MAHAVIR JAYANTI

HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Mahavir Jayanti. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring this holiday and its traditions:

Whereas, Mahavir Jayanti honors the birth anniversary of Mahavir Swami, the twenty-fourth Tirthankara of Jainism, and acknowledges the significant contributions of the Jain American community to the United States; and

Whereas, Mahavir Swami preached the core principles of Ahimsa (non-violence) and Satya (truthfulness), which continue to inspire people around the globe; and

Whereas, millions of Jains worldwide observe Mahavir Jayanti through rituals, reflection, and acts of community service; and

Whereas, Jainism has a rich tradition, spanning 2,500 years; and

Whereas, there are an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 Jain Americans contributing across fields, including business, education, medicine, the law, the arts, and technology; and

Whereas, members of the Jain American community have demonstrated a commitment to public service and philanthropy, establishing hospitals, food banks, and disaster relief efforts to serve people of all backgrounds; and

Whereas, Jain Americans have promoted the importance of a strong interfaith dialogue; and

Whereas, Mahavir Jayanti provides an opportunity for Americans of all backgrounds to learn more and engage with the history, philosophy, and contributions of the Jain community.

I wish all those celebrating a joyous Mahavir Jayanti.

HONORING MRS. CRYSTAL EVANS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Crystal Evans.

Crystal Evans resides in Crenshaw, Mississippi, with her husband, Joeseeph. She currently serves as an Alderwoman for the town of Crenshaw and is in her second elected term, where she works collaboratively with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to advance the town's vision as a "Small Town with Big Dreams."