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, Joeseph. 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.''

Crystal earned her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Mississippi and later obtained her master's degree from the University of New England. Following her graduation in 2015, she began her professional career at Region One Mental Health Center, where she served Quitman, Coahoma, and Tallahatchie counties as a Co-Occurring Disorder Specialist.

Driven by a strong commitment to community engagement and public service, Crystal later joined Health Connect America as a Mental Health Therapist. Her dedication to client advocacy, clinical excellence, and leadership development led to her appointment as Clinical Supervisor at Health Connect America in Senatobia, Mississippi, where she currently works. In this role, she provides clinical oversight, supervision, and support to ensure quality mental-health services for individuals and families across the region.

Crystal is deeply passionate about advocating for others, particularly vulnerable and underserved populations. Her civic service is grounded in her belief in listening to understand and acting with purpose and integrity. Through her work as an Alderwoman, she has focused on fostering growth, positive change, accountability, and resilience within the Crenshaw community.

Faith and service are central to Crystal's life. She is an active member of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where she serves as a choir member, conference call coordinator, deaconess, Bible class facilitator, and director of the Mental Health Ministry.

Crystal was initiated into Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Upsilon Tau Zeta Chapter, on December 16, 2017. Through Zeta's principles, she has strengthened her commitment to sisterhood, service, leadership, and community engagement.

Crystal remains dedicated to building stronger communities through ethical leadership, and compassionate service, and a steadfast commitment to progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Crystal Evans for her dedication in serving her community.

HONORING MINERVA SOLLA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Minerva Solla, a tireless advocate for working people, whose commitment to justice, dignity, and human rights has spanned more than five decades. I recognize her in honor of Women's History Month.

From her earliest days as a community organizer in New York City, Minerva has dedicated her life to empowering workers and strengthening communities. Her journey into labor activism began at the early age of 15 years old while working part-time at Bell Telephone, where a strike by the Communications Workers of America opened her eyes to the transformative power of organized labor.

In 1972, while working at Roosevelt Hospital, Minerva helped lead a historic 47-day strike that resulted in union representation through 1199SEIU. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a lifelong commitment to the labor movement. She went on to serve in numerous organizing roles within 1199, helping to build it into one of the most influential unions in the Nation while organizing workers across New York City and the Hudson Valley.

Since knowing her, Minerva has been a proud champion of social justice and Puerto Rican cultural heritage. She founded the 1199 Latinos Unidos Committee, uplifting Latino voices within the labor movement and beyond. Her leadership extended into cultural advocacy across New York State, as well as humanitarian efforts, including coordinating medical missions in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Even in retirement, Minerva never wavered. Through her work with the New York State Nurses Association, she has led political action campaigns and played a key role in advancing landmark legislation, including Paid Family Leave and the Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act.

Today, Minerva continues to serve her community with distinction as Chairperson of the Red Carpet for Social Justice Women's Coalition, Executive Vice President of the Westchester Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (AFL–CIO), and Vice President of the Retiree Division of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East. Her presence remains a powerful force in community organizing, labor advocacy, and social justice movements. Her unwavering dedication continues to inspire generations of leaders and advocates.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Minerva Solla for her remarkable contributions and lifelong commitment to workers' rights, cultural pride, and community empowerment. Her legacy stands as a beacon of hope and a call to action for us all.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COUNCIL

HON. AUGUST PFLUGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable milestone in American energy leadership, the 50th anniversary of the American Exploration and Production Council. As the proud Representative of Texas's 11th Congressional District, home to the Permian Basin and the world's most productive oil and natural gas fields, this anniversary holds tremendous significance to my constituents and our state.

Founded in 1976 during a time of energy shortages and growing dependence on foreign oil, AXPC has long advocated for policies that support responsible domestic production. Over the past five decades, independent producers have driven the innovation that transformed the United States into the world's leading producer of oil and natural gas.

Through exceptional technological ingenuity and know-how, these companies are the authors of the shale revolution. They have strengthened our energy security, created millions of jobs, and enabled the United States to become a net energy exporter.

This progress has also contributed to meaningful environmental gains. The United States' carbon dioxide emissions have reached their lowest level in decades in large part due to the work of AXPC and top American producers.

As global energy demand continues to rise, American producers remain essential to meeting that need while fueling our economy and national security.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing AXPC's 50th anniversary and the independent producers whose steadfast commitment to American energy dominance will solidify our Nation's prosperity and national security for decades to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF STEPHEN ''STEVE'' G. MONTGOMERY

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 Stephen "Steve" G. Montgomery.

Steve was an Orinda resident for 65 years and a third generation Bay Area resident. He dedicated his life to spreading joy and sharing his love for food with our community. He began his career in the restaurant industry working as a busboy in Lightners Café in Orinda, where he first learned the principles of providing outstanding customer service. He went on to work at Scott's Seafood and Zza's Trattoria, but his most fulfilling professional chapter came when he began working at Italian Colors in Montclair. Here, Steve and his partner Alan cultivated a space for the community to gather, laugh together, and enjoy delicious, high-quality food. Steve took the time to get to know his regulars, knowing not just their favorite dishes or seating preferences, but also about their families and their lives.

Steve is survived by his brothers Rob and Ron; his nieces Ashleigh (Adi) and Alicia (Caroline); his godson Dylan; his nephews Jeffrey (Joycelyn) and James; and his sister in law Julietta.

Steve will be remembered for his kindness. hospitality, and great sense of humor. Please join me in recognizing Stephen G. Montgomery for his many contributions to our community.