

including healthcare, childcare, computers, and food.

A vital institution of higher learning for the Bay Area, the College of Marin is worthy of the highest commendation. Mr. Speaker, please join us in recognizing the College of Marin on the occasion of its 100th anniversary and offering the College our best wishes for another century of success.

HONORING KENNETH O. EDWARDS

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Kenneth O. "Kenny" Edwards upon the occasion of his retirement after 36 years of dedicated service to the railroad industry and to the working men and women of Indiana.

Born and raised in Peru, Indiana, Mr. Edwards is a proud fifth-generation railroader whose life's work reflects a deep commitment to safety, fairness, and the dignity of labor. Over the course of his distinguished career, he has become a respected leader and tireless advocate for railroad workers, earning the trust and admiration of colleagues across the state and nation.

Since 2009, Mr. Edwards has served as the Indiana State Legislative Director for the SMART Transportation Division, where he has championed policies that protect workers and strengthen our rail infrastructure. With more than three decades of service as a union officer, he has played a critical role in advancing rail safety initiatives, improving working conditions, and supporting infrastructure projects that benefit both workers and communities.

His leadership has helped secure important protections for train crews, including safeguarding their privacy in the wake of tragic incidents. He has also advocated for common-sense safety improvements, like reducing train lengths and enhancing rail yard conditions. Throughout his career, Mr. Edwards has exemplified the very best of public service through his advocacy, integrity, and unwavering dedication to others.

Mr. Speaker, Kenneth O. Edwards has devoted his life to uplifting working families and strengthening one of our nation's most vital industries. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his remarkable career and in wishing him continued success and fulfillment in his well-earned retirement.

RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT  
PHILLIP COOK

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize 100-year-old Staff Sergeant Phillip Bruce Cook, a proven patriotic resident of Lexington, South Carolina, on his reception of the French Legion of Honor medal, as well as his invaluable contribution to victory in World War II.

Staff Sgt. Cook is receiving the French Legion of Honor medal for a career of profound

courage and leadership as he served as a member of the U.S. Army Air Force 379th Bomb Group, 524th Bomb Squadron.

Staff Sgt. Cook was born in Swansea, South Carolina, on September 23, 1925, and from a young age, he had a passion for flying. At just 17 years old, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and received training as an aerial gunner.

Based in England, his first combat mission was in 1944 as a ball turret gunner flying over France. This was a particularly dangerous role aboard a B-17 bomber.

Over the course of his service, Staff Sgt. Cook flew a total of 35 missions.

The combat record of the 379th was the most successful of all the Eighth Air Force heavy bomber groups. The unit held records as far as bomb tonnage dropped—26,459 tons—more than any other group, including those in operation before the 379th even arrived in England.

Staff Sgt. Cook was honorably discharged in 1945. Following the war, he returned to Lexington and attended a trade school to learn how to repair watches and clocks.

A graduate of Swansea High School, he is married, has two children, and attends Northside Baptist Church in Lexington.

Due to his outstanding sense of courage and commitment, he will be receiving the French Legion of Honor medal on April 9th, 2026, at the South Carolina Historic Aviation Foundation in Columbia. This medal is the highest and most prestigious French national order of merit and recognizes those brave men and women who have done great deeds for France. Following a comprehensive examination of his military record and post war life experiences, French President Emmanuel Macron approved his application.

I am grateful to Staff Sgt. Cook for his incredible service and unwavering dedication to America. I wish him and his family all the best.

HONORING OF DECATUR COUNTY  
TENNESSEE

**HON. MATT VAN EPPS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Decatur County, Tennessee, for their extraordinary display of unity, service, and selflessness during the recent Winter Storm Fern.

As this powerful storm moved across our state, it left behind widespread damage and uncertainty for many communities. In Decatur County, the response was immediate and inspiring. Local agencies, first responders, volunteers, and faith-based organizations came together with a shared purpose to care for their neighbors. They worked long hours in difficult conditions, putting the needs of others before their own and ensuring that no one was left behind.

This was not driven by a desire for recognition or praise, but by a deep-rooted commitment to one another and to the community they call home. This quiet dedication speaks volumes about the character of the people who call Decatur County home.

Through these collective efforts, the people of Decatur County played a critical role in

helping ensure the safety of their community throughout the storm. Their actions reflect the power of neighbors looking out for neighbors and demonstrate how preparation, compassion, and resilience can make all the difference in times of crisis.

In moments of hardship, we often witness the very best of the American spirit. Decatur County demonstrated that spirit in full. The people of Decatur County's actions serve as a powerful reminder that strong communities are built not just in times of prosperity, but in how people respond when challenges arise.

It is my honor to recognize Decatur County for its remarkable response and unwavering commitment to service during Winter Storm Fern. Decatur's residents epitomized Tennessee's volunteer spirit. You made us all proud. Your example is one that deserves to be remembered and one that should inspire communities across our Nation.

May we all strive to embody the same spirit of service, humility, and unity that the people of Decatur County so clearly displayed.

CONGRATULATING CONNOR HILL

**HON. GLENN THOMPSON**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Connor Hill of Port Matilda, Pennsylvania. Connor recently won the Regeneration Science Talent Search competition.

The Regeneration Science Talent Search is one of the oldest math and science competitions in our nation. Each year, high school seniors across the country are invited to compete.

For 84 years, this competition has inspired students to address global issues. Connor is a senior at Delta High School in State College, Pennsylvania. He was among the 40 finalists who were invited to Washington, D.C. earlier this month to present their final projects. The 40 finalists received more than \$1.8 million in awards. Connor received the top award of \$250,000 dollars.

Connor's research solved a long-standing mathematical mystery by identifying every possible "noble polyhedron." This is a shape where every face and corner is identical. Connor created a computer program to analyze how these shapes can exist. He discovered 146 unique examples.

Congratulations to Connor on this amazing accomplishment.

HONORING THE 35 YEARS OF  
SERVICE OF DR. RITO SILVA

**HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. Rito Silva, a student-centric and visionary leader in the academic field.

Dr. Silva has served his community of Alice, Texas, as councilman and mayor for a combined seven years. Dr. Silva is proud to be a

first-generation alumnus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville and later returned to serve as the Vice President for Student Affairs and Community Relations.

Throughout his exemplary career, Dr. Silva has dedicated his time to expanding student access and improving retention in his community. He played a critical role in developing innovative programs such as the Javelina Promise and the Javelin Relight Program. Under his leadership, Texas A&M University-Kingsville saw consistent growth in first-generation student enrollment, including a 17 percent increase in his first year.

Dr. Silva also prioritized building strong relationships within the university and across South Texas, working closely with local school districts, community colleges, and creating ties across the broader South Texas community. He established several initiatives such as the Superintendent Symposium to strengthen collaboration with regional educators. Dr. Silva also advanced efforts to improve health services for students and employees through expanded on-campus care and community partnerships, particularly in support of rural health care.

In recognition of his service and impact, he has received numerous honors, including the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Hispanic Heritage Award and the Lone Star College Administrator of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Dr. Rito Silva on his many accomplishments and thank him for his continued service to our community. His leadership has strengthened educational opportunities and has uplifted communities across South Texas, and his impact will be felt for years to come.

RECOGNIZING LARRY AND LOIS QUINN

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two extraordinary members of our community, Larry and Lois Quinn, whose unwavering dedication, generosity, and servant hearts are truly remarkable. Larry and Lois have been ambassadors for Hope Services for the past six years and were among the organization's very first Dream Team members. From the beginning, they have gone above and beyond—offering thoughtful ideas and suggestions, carefully proofreading materials, and faithfully managing the raffle room for the annual Dance Your Dream event. Their commitment ensures that Hope Services' programs run smoothly and effectively, benefiting countless individuals and families.

Beyond their service to Hope Services, Larry and Lois are beloved members of Bridgeway Church, where they are known for their loving, joyful spirits and quiet, steadfast devotion to helping others. They serve faithfully behind the scenes, without seeking recognition or fanfare, motivated solely by a desire to make a positive difference in the lives of those around them. Larry and Lois embody lives of purpose and faith. Their generosity, humility, and consistent acts of service reflect hearts of gold and a deep commitment to living out their values each day. They inspire all who know them by demonstrating that true heroism is often found not in public accolades, but in quiet, selfless service.

For their enduring dedication, compassionate hearts, and profound impact on their community, I am honored to recognize Larry and Lois Quinn as 2026 Heroes Among Us. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their unwavering commitment, selfless leadership, and the profound, lasting impact they have made on our community.

CONGRATULATING DR. JACK STERNBERG ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE ARKANSAS WALK OF FAME

**HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 6, 2026*

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Jack Sternberg on his induction to the Arkansas Walk of Fame.

The first oncologist in Arkansas, Dr. Sternberg is a pioneer of cancer care in our state. Fondly known by his patients as "Dr. Jack," his dedication to serving the people of his community goes far beyond a white coat; it's rooted deeply in his heart. His true character has been evident through the impactful relationships he's built within the community he's served for so long. For decades, Dr. Jack's work has gone beyond clinical care to provide a more personal approach, guiding each patient and their family through an incredibly difficult chapter with tenderness and tailored care. He didn't just want to be their doctor; he wanted to be their friend.

His compassionate heart led him to serve as a volunteer doctor for the VA after his retirement in 2006, acting as an overflow physician who quickly became a beloved figure at the clinic. Dr. Jack would likely also appreciate my mentioning how deeply his faith has impacted his life. Guided by his faith, his belief in God illuminates every corner of his life—from each patient he encountered to the pieces of literature he has written.

I am proud to recognize Dr. Jack today for the lasting impact he has made not only in his own community but also throughout the entire state of Arkansas. His induction to the Arkansas Walk of Fame is a testament to the trust placed in him by his patients and community, establishing him as a champion for health and healing across the Natural State.