

CONGRATULATING BISHOP MARIO
AVILÉS ON HIS INSTALLATION

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Most Reverend Mario Alberto Avilés, C.O., on his appointment by Pope Leo XIV to serve as the ninth Bishop of Corpus Christi.

In his previous role as Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of Brownsville, he served our region and uplifted those in need through his faith and compassion.

His recent appointment is a testament to this leadership and the humility with which he serves. Bishop Avilés has consistently upheld the values of integrity and compassion that the Catholic church is proud to represent.

This calling comes at a time when our Nation is facing hardship, and our people are divided. I can think of no better servant of God to provide ministry to our community.

As South Texas continues to grow and navigate these complex challenges, Bishop Avilés' leadership has been essential in fostering hope, stability, and moral clarity for our community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I wish to congratulate Most Reverend Mario Avilés, C.O., for his appointment as Bishop of Corpus Christi. I also wish to thank him for his service to the Rio Grande Valley.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN PATRIOT
PENNY JUSTICE

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Penny Justice on her selection as the winner of the Patriot of the Year Award. This annual award ceremony celebrates our great American servicemembers, first responders, and citizens, and recognizes men and women who, through their actions and words, exemplify servant leadership and patriotism.

Mrs. Justice has made exceptional contributions in support of service members, veterans and their families in Northeast Florida, and has demonstrated extraordinary patriotism and dedication to our Nation's ideals.

On this historic occasion, I congratulate and recognize Penny Justice. I thank her for her dedication and leadership. May God bless her and congratulations to her.

RECOGNIZING MS. MARTHA ELIAS

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Martha Elias for her well-earned retirement from Nueva High School and for her decades of dedicated service to the Lamont community. Shortly after completing her

education in Mexico, Ms. Elias immigrated to the United States and began her professional career as a bilingual secretary at a printing company. Determined to further her education, she attended Brigham Young University in Utah, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish Teaching and Latin American Studies. In 1991, Ms. Elias continued her commitment to education by earning a teaching credential in Bakersfield, going on to serve students at both Arvin High School and Highland High School. Since 2010, Ms. Elias has been a trusted counselor and dedicated English Language Development Coordinator at Nueva High School.

Through her compassion, professionalism, and deep cultural roots, she built meaningful relationships with students and families alike. She made it her mission to ensure every student felt supported, confident, and prepared with the skills needed to succeed beyond graduation. Ms. Elias' impact extends far beyond the classroom. She has been a mentor to colleagues, a trusted partner to parents, and a pillar of the greater Kern County community. As the Master of Ceremonies for academic award assemblies, she brought families together to celebrate student achievement, often receiving heartfelt thanks from parents whose children's lives she helped shape. Under her leadership and guidance, Nueva High School achieved significant milestones, including the highest graduation rate in alternative education, increased scholarship attainment, and record participation in ROTC programs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Martha Elias for her extraordinary career, her lasting impact on generations of students, and her unwavering dedication to the Lamont community. Her service exemplifies the difference one committed educator can make, and she leaves behind a legacy that will be felt for years to come.

HONORING EULESS JAIL
SUPERVISOR ALISHA JOHNSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Jail Supervisor Alisha Johnson of the Eules Police Department, who is retiring after twenty-five years of dedicated service.

Alisha joined the City of Eules in November 1999 as a Public Service Officer, after previously serving as a Correctional Officer with Correctional Service Corporation in Fort Worth. Through her commitment to public service, she was promoted to Jail Supervisor in October 2023. She is an expert in the Live Scan fingerprinting system and has completed new supervisor school and other job-related training courses.

Alisha graduated from Kofa High School in Yuma, Arizona, pursued accounting and business at Arizona Western University, and earned an Associate Degree in General Studies from Tarrant County College. She is a member of the Eules Peace Officers Association and has received numerous awards, including the Blackie Sustaire Award, Employee

of the Month in 2006, Civilian of the Year in 2013, the Distinguished Service Civilian Award in 2020, and a Unit Citation in 2022.

She enjoys traveling, reading, outdoor activities, and spending time with her family.

I would like to thank Jail Supervisor Johnson for her exemplary service to the Eules community and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 334.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was in discussion with another Member on the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 8, H.R. 504.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF COUNCILWOMAN DOROTHY
"MS. DOT" GLENN NICHOLS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life, service, and legacy of Councilwoman Dorothy "Ms. Dot" Glenn Nichols, a devoted public servant, community leader, educator, and compassionate advocate for the people of Greenwood, Leflore County, and the State of Mississippi.

Councilwoman Glenn Nichols was born on October 16, 1957, in Leflore County, Mississippi. From an early age she demonstrated a steadfast commitment to faith, service, and education. She was a lifelong member of New Foundation Missionary Baptist Church in Greenwood, Mississippi, where she faithfully served in numerous leadership roles and lived out her Christian values through service to others.

A proud graduate of Greenwood High School, Class of 1976, Councilwoman Glenn Nichols pursued higher education with purpose and determination. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Education from Mary Holmes Junior College and later a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Development, with a minor in Business Administration, from Tougaloo College. Her educational foundation became the cornerstone of a distinguished career devoted to improving the lives of children and families.

For decades, Ms. Glenn Nichols served in the Head Start and Early Start programs at the local, state, and national levels. Beginning

as a classroom teacher, she rose through the ranks to serve as a case worker, child and family advocate, program lead, and ultimately a Head Start Technical Assistance Program Improvement Coach. Her expertise supported educators, administrators, and agencies throughout Mississippi and the broader region. Her work gained national recognition, leading to her appointment as a National Advisor and Professional Development Specialist with the Council for Professional Recognition, where she helped shape the future of early childhood education across Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama.

Beyond her professional achievements, Councilwoman Glenn Nichols was a devoted entrepreneur and community builder. As the owner and operator of Dot's Corner Market on historic Broad Street in Greenwood, she transformed a neighborhood store into a center of care, connection, and compassion. Known affectionately as "The Mother of Broad Street," she provided not only goods, but guidance, encouragement, and refuge for countless individuals. Her store became a symbol of trust, unity, and resilience within the community.

Councilwoman Glenn Nichols also answered the call to public service. She represented the citizens of Greenwood with integrity and dedication as a member of the Greenwood City Council. In 2021, she assumed the role of Councilwoman for District 6 and was re-elected in 2025, serving faithfully until her passing. Her leadership was rooted in advocacy, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to uplifting her constituents. She was a lifelong member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated, the NAACP Leflore County Chapter, and the Greenwood Voters League—organizations that reflect her dedication to civic engagement, social justice, and community empowerment.

On Friday, January 2, 2026, Councilwoman Dorothy "Ms. Dot" Glenn Nichols departed this life, leaving behind a legacy defined by faith, service, leadership, and love. Her impact is evident in the lives of the children she educated, the families she supported, the community she strengthened, and the city she served.

Mr. Speaker, Councilwoman Glenn Nichols exemplified what it means to live a life of purpose. Her compassion, perseverance, and commitment to others stand as an enduring example of public service at its finest. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her life and legacy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed three votes on January 12, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 15, final passage of H.R. 6504, Haiti Economic Lift Program Extension Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 14, final passage of H.R. 6500, AGOA Extension Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 13, final passage of H.R. 2683, Remote Access Security Act.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT HAZLEWOOD

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to First Sergeant Robert Hazlewood, United States Marine Corps, of North Richland Hills, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

First Sergeant Hazlewood served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for thirty years, including during the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm. Throughout his career, he held numerous leadership roles across the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, and 14th Marine Regiment earning the respect of those he led through his steadfast commitment to the Marine Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment. His military decorations include the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, three Good Conduct Medals, three Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medals, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Following his retirement, First Sergeant Hazlewood has continued to serve his community with the same dedication that marked his military career. A lifelong mentor and educator, he operates a martial arts school where he teaches self-defense and discipline to young men and women, providing specialized training for college-bound students to enhance their personal safety. He also serves his church, Compass Church in Colleyville, by leading and training its volunteer security team, and has been twice recognized by the City of Colleyville for more than twenty years of service to local youth.

First Sergeant Hazlewood's contributions have also been recognized nationally and internationally. He has been honored by the Governor of Tennessee for his work with the Junior Achievement Program, received Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellow recognition for promoting global understanding, and earned the Jandal Service Award for his support of high school speech and debate students. He continues to mentor youth through Rotary Interact, the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots program, and by coaching students toward successful appointments to the United States Air Force and Naval Academies.

First Sergeant Hazlewood's distinguished record of service to his Nation and his tireless commitment to the next generation reflect the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING BERNIE PRAZENICA'S RETIREMENT AS PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF WPVI-TV

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bernie Prazenica on his retirement as President and General Manager of WPVI-TV, Philadelphia's most-watched local news and entertainment television station.

A graduate of Temple University, Prazenica's illustrious 43-year career in television saw stops in Pittsburgh, Richmond, and Raleigh before he returned to Philadelphia in 1994. He would go on to serve as the President and General Manager of WPVI beginning in 2007, making him the longest-serving General Manager in the station's history.

Throughout the entirety of his tenure, Prazenica played a critical role in maintaining WPVI's status as the home of the most-watched local news broadcast in Philadelphia, Action News, a title which the station and program have held for nearly 50 years. In 2009, he oversaw the construction of a state-of-the-art, 110,000 square foot digital broadcasting facility next to the station's previous home. His unwavering commitment to his work has ensured that throughout his tenure, the station has remained at the forefront of producing groundbreaking news, brought into countless homes across the Delaware Valley every single day.

Prazenica is also an active participant in Philadelphia's business, cultural and philanthropic communities. He has actively served on many boards, including those of the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Corporate Council. He has previously chaired the Police Athletic League and Temple University's Klein College Board of Advisors. In 2009, Prazenica was recognized by Philadelphia Magazine as one of the City's 75 Most Influential People and, in 2024, he was inducted into the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting that the House recognizes Bernie Prazenica for his exceptional career and congratulates him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM J. "BILL" MARTIN

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of William J. "Bill" Martin, a cherished leader, historian, and steward of Richmond's history, who passed away on December 28, 2025, at the age of 71. Bill Martin served with distinction for over three decades as the Director of The Valentine Museum in Richmond, Virginia, dedicating his life to preserving and interpreting the rich and complex narratives of our community.