

Born and raised in Culpeper County, Virginia, Bill's passion for history and community storytelling grew into a remarkable career that transformed The Valentine into a dynamic, vibrant center of learning and civic engagement. During his 32 years of leadership, Bill guided the museum through financial crises, expanded its collections and programs, and fostered inclusive conversations about Richmond's past and its impact on the present and future. His stewardship helped ensure that The Valentine became not just a collection of artifacts, but a forum where history could be studied and shared by all.

Bill's commitment to truth and community extended beyond The Valentine's walls. He embraced challenging and sometimes uncomfortable discourse about slavery, the legacy of the Confederacy and Jim Crow, and how Richmond's history is told. His efforts strengthened civic understanding, bridged diverse perspectives, and inspired countless residents and visitors to reflect deeply on our shared past.

Bill Martin was widely recognized for his contributions to Richmond's cultural life. In 2024, he was named "Richmonder of the Year" by Style Weekly, as a testament to his influence and the profound respect he earned across the Richmond community.

Bill was not just a constituent; he was a true friend, one whose passion and joy for his work and community were infectious. While his legacy will live on in the stories he brought to light, he will be dearly missed. These words reflect not only Bill's professional excellence but also his personal warmth, his ability to bring people together, and his unwavering belief in the power of history to guide us toward a more just and informed future.

Today, we mourn the loss of a visionary leader, a devoted colleague, and a dear friend to so many in the Richmond region and beyond. Bill's legacy will endure in the countless lives he touched, in the stories he preserved, and in future generations of learners and leaders he inspired.

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET "BB"  
BELL HOUSTON

**HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary life of a beloved Angeleno who passed away at the age of 96, the late Margaret "BB" Bell Houston.

For more than four decades, she served as a private nurse. Her unwavering commitment to caring for others touched countless patients and leaves behind a legacy of compassion that will live on for generations to come.

Those who knew her best will remember a passionate animal lover with an eye for fashion, a joy for jazz and dancing, and a fondness for sunflowers. I like to imagine her now dancing to jazz in a garden of sunflowers in heaven, reunited with her husband and parents.

Margaret was generous beyond measure to her family and friends alike. Her loss will be profoundly felt by her son Cedric, grand-

children, and great-grandchildren. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
MICHAEL W. KNAPP FOR HIS  
SERVICE TO THE UNITED  
STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
TIVES

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding officer and strategic leader in our United States Air Force.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael W. Knapp distinguished himself through exceptional professional character and dedication by serving this Nation in uniform. For the past two years, Lieutenant Colonel Knapp served admirably as the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs for U.S. Transportation Command. In this role, he was the principal liaison for Members of Congress and the Commander of the U.S. Transportation Command. Here, he fostered positive relationships between the Congress and the command and conveyed information critical to Congressional oversight, policy development, and appropriations.

Lieutenant Colonel Knapp graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy and serves as a senior pilot with over three thousand one hundred flight hours as a combat pilot for the C-17A Globemaster III and as a Vice Presidential pilot on C-32A aircraft. Prior to his assignment at U.S. Transportation Command, he served as Defense Legislative Fellow to Senator Tammy Duckworth, where he advised on defense, foreign relations, and veterans' affairs legislation.

As Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs for U.S. Transportation Command, Lieutenant Colonel Knapp scheduled eighty-three office calls between the Commander and Members of Congress. These meetings addressed contested logistics and readiness concerns and fortified posture testimony during Senate and House Armed Services Committee hearings. He also organized the Deputy Commander's annual Hill engagements, educating nearly one hundred staffers on the Mobility Capabilities Study, directly influencing critical report language for aeromedical evacuation requirements. Finally, he developed the command's appropriations engagement strategy thereby protecting \$2.8 million dollars for Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation funds for maritime logistics platforms.

Of particular note for my district, Lieutenant Colonel Knapp led a four-day congressional staff delegation to California showcasing Ready Reserve Force vessels and joint mobility assets throughout the district, thus bolstering support for maritime equities, surface transportation needs, and air mobility requirements that align perfectly with the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee's priorities. This engagement provided Congress critical insights and directly influenced the debate for recapitalizing the Ready Reserve Force in the Fiscal Year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act.

Mr. Speaker, next month Lieutenant Colonel Knapp will assume duties in my district at

Travis Air Force Base, California, as the Director of Operations of the 821st Contingency Response Squadron, where he will once again lead Airmen on the tactical and operational levels. It has been a great pleasure to work with Lieutenant Colonel Knapp during his time representing U.S. Transportation Commands on Capitol Hill. His dedication to the Nation's maritime and air mobility infrastructure, combined with his deep understanding of strategic mobility challenges, made him an invaluable partner in advancing our national defense transportation priorities. On behalf of our grateful Nation, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service and sacrifice of Lieutenant Colonel Knapp and his family for the past sixteen years. I wish them the very best as they continue their journey in our U.S. Air Force, and I look forward to welcoming them to California's 8th Congressional District.

Together, we deliver.

RECOGNIZING MARK SMITS

**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 Captain Mark Smits, United States Army, of Coppell, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Captain Smits was commissioned into the United States Army in 1979 and served as an engineer officer until 1983. During his military career, he demonstrated strong leadership and technical skill earning the Parachutist Badge, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon. His dedication to excellence and teamwork exemplified the values of duty, integrity, and service to others that define the United States Army.

Following his military service, Captain Smits has continued a lifelong commitment to empowering others and supporting those who serve. As a Board Member and Mentor for Claymore Operations, he helps active-duty service members prepare for the transition to civilian life by providing personalized mentorship, career guidance, and leadership development. He also serves as Commander of the Military Order of the World Wars Dallas Chapter, where he promotes patriotism, civic responsibility, and leadership among veterans and students alike.

As Chairman of the Dallas MOWW's Youth Leadership initiatives, Captain Smits leads programs that bring together JROTC cadets and high school students from across Texas to build leadership skills and foster a deeper appreciation for service and citizenship. His tireless work ensures that both current and future generations understand the value of duty, honor, and commitment to country.

Captain Smits' service to his Nation and community is in keeping with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY  
OF RICHARD LYNCH

**HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of Richard Lynch in White Township, New Jersey.

Richard J. Lynch, a Warren County native and World War II U.S. Navy veteran, was honored this week. He celebrated his 100th birthday on January 7, 2026, while surrounded by family, friends, and fellow veterans.

Lynch further received a quilt from the Quilts of Valor Foundation and a Distinguished Military Service Medal from the Warren County War Memorial Corporation for his service to our Nation.

A Navy veteran of World War II, Lynch served as a signalman third class aboard the USS *LST 1109*. After his military service, he worked as a printer and volunteered as a Sunday school teacher in his local community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this hero. There is no greater responsibility, nor debt of gratitude, than that which our Nation owes to its veterans.

HONORING BARRY DEL BUONO'S  
LIFETIME OF IMPACT

**HON. SAM T. LICCARDO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleague, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, to recognize the life and contributions of Barry Del Buono, a champion for the unhoused and a longtime community leader in San José, California, who passed away on December 26, 2025. Mr. Del Buono dedicated his life to building a more compassionate and equitable society, working tirelessly to ensure that every person, regardless of circumstance, had access to shelter, dignity, and a second chance. From the time I first met Barry as a child, I considered Barry as a hero for the way he transformed his quiet strength and potent faith to launch and lead organizations to which thousands of our most vulnerable neighbors owe their survival.

Barry began his life of public service as a Catholic priest in San José, where he co-founded the Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen to serve meals to the hungry—an organization that continues to serve our community to this day. Even after leaving the priesthood, he never left the mission. Instead, he expanded it. In the early 1980s, Barry became the first employee, and soon the executive director, of the Emergency Housing Consortium, later known as EHC LifeBuilder, and now HomeFirst. He built EHC into a dependable organization for Santa Clara County residents. He developed what was then a groundbreaking “continuum of care” model that extended beyond emergency shelter to transitional and permanent supportive housing. From San José to Gilroy, Barry launched programs that offered not just temporary relief, but a genuine pathway toward stability and recovery.

Barry brought remarkable creativity to this work. He recognized the potential in empty farmworker cottages during the off-season and turned them into a winter family shelter.

He helped run the cold-weather shelter at the National Guard Armory in Gilroy for nearly two decades. He secured public funding by mastering the machinery of government grants, writing proposals late into the night while running services by day. Through both lean years and economic booms, Barry made sure that EHC remained a lifeline for thousands of families and individuals.

Though widely respected for his strategic mind and fundraising skill, Barry was most admired for his relentless conviction that homelessness could be solved. He built programs and mentored a generation of nonprofit leaders who now carry on the work he started. Barry was as fierce in his advocacy as he was generous in spirit.

After stepping down from EHC in 2007, Barry continued to serve his community. He became a sociology instructor at San José City College, sharing decades of hard-earned wisdom with his students. He launched an educational nonprofit with his wife, Dr. Maile Del Buono, to help underserved workers and students access opportunities.

San José's City Council appointed Barry to San José's Housing and Community Development Commission, lending his voice and experience to policymaking until the final year of his life. Throughout his multi-act career, he maintained a deep commitment to his family of five children and seven grandchildren, and to Maile. With her by his side, they battled cancer courageously for several years—both hers, and his own—until he succumbed at age 74. Throughout his battle, he demonstrated the same quiet strength and powerful faith that made him a great community champion. We will remember Barry Del Buono not only for what he built, but for what he believed—that no one is beyond help, and that it is our shared responsibility to lift each other up. I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends, joined by the grateful many he touched throughout his extraordinary life. May he rest in peace and achieve his hero's welcome in heaven.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTIN  
OLONDRIZ TUASON

**HON. DARRELL ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in both tribute and sorrow for the life and loss of an outstanding man, an extraordinary innovator, and a great friend. We lost Martin Olondriz Tuason late last year, and the news is as difficult to fathom today as it was then and every day since.

He was larger than life and a person of boundless energy, but those who had the privilege to spend time with him out of the spotlight saw the rest of Martin: his warm smile, compassionate heart, unwavering kindness, and indefatigable spirit.

He commanded the heights of his business and was a trusted advisor to government leaders around the world, yet he was available, accessible, and the easiest man to talk to. As

consuming as his career was—as President and CEO of Armscor/Rock Island Armory—he made everyone else his priority. Martin was a singular force but also a loyal teammate, an enterprise leader but also an industrywide advocate, a decisive decision-maker but also a patient consensus builder.

He had an unwavering belief in doing things the right way, and he kept faith with more than a century of his family's history and legacy by protecting the values of his father and grandfather: respect, integrity, craftsmanship, and service. These are the hallmarks that made his company the largest privately owned firearms and ammunition manufacturing company in Southeast Asia with exports to more than 60 countries, including the United States and Australia, as well as nations in Europe, South America, and Southeast Asia.

But Martin's most proud role—as he would unhesitatingly tell everyone—was not in the C-suite, but as a loving husband to Tammy and a fiercely devoted father to Nate, Olivia, James—and as so many have shared—a father figure to many more. Outside of his family he left an indelible mark on every life that he touched—and for one man, he managed to touch so many lives around the world.

Those who knew Martin best have shared what was best about him: he carried his charge willingly, graciously, and without complaining—out of duty and love in his big heart. He truly cared for others. He was smart, fearless, gentle, and kind.

There is a void to fill in our world, and that is the challenge for the friends of Martin Tuason: those of us who knew him, who admired him, and who will always miss him.

HONORING THE CAREER OF HAMP-  
TON ROADS NATIVE COACH MIKE  
TOMLIN OF THE PITTSBURGH  
STEELERS

**HON. ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 13, 2026*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere appreciation to Coach Mike Tomlin for his extraordinary career and lasting impact on the game of football. His resignation marks the end of an era not only for the Pittsburgh Steelers, but for the entire National Football League.

Coach Tomlin has been a model of leadership, consistency, and excellence. As one of the longest-tenured and most successful head coaches in the league, he demonstrated what it means to lead with integrity, resilience, and a commitment to both performance and people. His historic achievements—including never having a losing season—speak volumes about his discipline, preparation, and ability to bring out the best in those around him.

For those of us in Hampton Roads, Coach Tomlin's story is especially meaningful. A proud graduate of Denbigh High School in Newport News and a standout student-athlete at the College of William & Mary, he represents the very best of our region. His journey from our local schools to the pinnacle of professional football is a testament to the power of hard work, perseverance, and community support.

Beyond the wins and championships, Coach Tomlin's legacy is also defined by the doors