

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

he helped open. As one of the few Black head coaches in the NFL, he has been an inspiration to countless young people who now see what is possible when talent meets opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Coach Tomlin and his family the very best in this next chapter. His influence will continue to be felt for years to come—on the field, in locker rooms, and in the lives of the many players, coaches, and fans he inspired.

RECOGNIZING LARRY KELLOGG

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. 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 Sergeant Larry Kellogg, United States Army, of Coppel, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Sergeant Kellogg was drafted into the United States Army in 1966 and served with Company C, 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, as a combat medic during the Vietnam War. In February 1967, at age twenty-four, he deployed to Vietnam, where his courage and devotion to duty saved lives on the battlefield. In July of that year, while on patrol, his armored personnel carrier was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade. Despite his own severe injuries, Sergeant Kellogg immediately began tending to three wounded squad members, continuing to render aid until he lost consciousness from blood loss. His selfless actions saved the lives of those men and earned him the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Purple Heart for wounds received in action. His additional decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Marksman Badge (Rifle M14), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal Unit Citation.

Following his military service, Sergeant Kellogg has remained steadfast in his commitment to veterans and his community. He served as a Director and honor guard member with Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 920 in Denton for more than fifteen years, volunteered with the Coppel Police Department's Citizen Patrol, and continues to serve as a Eucharistic Minister at Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, bringing the Eucharist to the homebound. He is also an active member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, representing his chapter at civic events and community ceremonies honoring America's veterans.

Sergeant Kellogg's lifelong devotion to service both in uniform and in the community reflects the highest traditions of the United States Army and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BETTY REID SOSKIN

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Betty Reid Soskin, a trailblazer, public servant, and living witness to American history who used her 104 years of her life to the fullest.

Born in 1921, lived in the East Bay since 1927, when her family moved from New Orleans. She lived a life defined by courage, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to truth and justice. She experienced firsthand the hardships of segregation, the challenges of wartime America, and the long struggle for civil rights, yet she transformed those experiences into a lifetime of public service and education.

As a young woman during World War II, Betty worked as a shipyard clerk for an all-Black auxiliary lodge of the segregated Boilermaker's union. In 1945 she and her husband founded one of the first Black-owned music stores, which remained open until 2019.

Ms. Soskin made history as the oldest active National Park Service ranger, serving at the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California. Through her work, she ensured that the stories of women, people of color, and working families who are often omitted from traditional historical narratives were finally heard and preserved. Her storytelling gave voice to generations whose contributions shaped our Nation but were too often overlooked.

Beyond her federal service, Betty Reid Soskin has worked as staff to a Berkeley city council member, a state Assemblywoman, and a California State Senator. As well as a respected civil rights activist, author, educator, and community leader. Her life reminded us that history is not only something we study it is something we live, challenge, and improve.

Even after surviving serious injury late in life, Ms. Soskin continued to inspire with her determination, grace, and clarity of purpose. She taught us that patriotism includes honesty, that progress requires persistence, and that every generation has a responsibility to expand opportunity and justice.

Betty Reid Soskin leaves behind an enduring legacy of service, truth-telling, and hope. Her life stands as a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of ensuring that America's full story is told. I extend my deepest condolences to her family, loved ones, and all those whose lives were touched by her remarkable spirit. Her impact will be felt for generations, and I know the people of Contra Costa County, and our Nation will join me in celebrating her life and legacy. May we honor her memory by continuing the work she so passionately advanced and by striving, as she did, to build a more just and inclusive Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE CITY OF
PLACENTIA

HON. DEREK TRAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a truly momentous milestone as the City of Placentia celebrates its 100th Anniversary. For a century, Placentia has stood as a vibrant and resilient community in Orange County, enriched by its history, strengthened by its diversity, and united by a shared commitment to progress.

Founded in 1926, Placentia grew from its agricultural roots into a thriving suburban city while preserving the values that have long defined it: hard work, civic pride, and a deep sense of community. From its early citrus groves to the dynamic neighborhoods, schools, and businesses that define the city today, Placentia's story is one of thoughtful growth and enduring opportunity.

Over the past 100 years, generations of residents, civic leaders, educators, public servants, and business owners have contributed to Placentia's success. Their dedication has fostered a city known for strong public institutions, safe neighborhoods, and a commitment to education, innovation, and community engagement. Placentia's ability to adapt while honoring its past reflects the very best of the American spirit.

As Placentia marks its centennial, we also look forward to the next generation of leaders, families, and entrepreneurs who will continue shaping the city's future. With ongoing investments in infrastructure, public safety, education, and economic development, Placentia is well-positioned to thrive for the next hundred years and beyond.

On this historic occasion, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the residents of Placentia and express my deepest appreciation to all who have contributed to the city's growth and success. It is an honor to represent this remarkable community in Congress, and I am proud to recognize the City of Placentia's 100 years of history, service, and achievement.

HONORING BEN AND ALISON
SKLARCZYK

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Ben and Alison Sklarczyk for receiving the Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy's Conservation Innovation Award, which will be presented at the Great Lakes Crop Summit on January 28, 2026.

Ben and Alison Sklarczyk are third-generation farmers who operate Sklarczyk Seed Farm in Otsego County, where innovation and sustainability are at the heart of their work. Their family-owned operation encompasses approximately 2,000 acres of barley, oats, wheat, corn, and soybeans, along with 50,000 square feet of advanced greenhouse space, making them leaders in Michigan's agricultural community.