

RECOGNIZING DR. WALTER COPAN

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Dr. Walter C. Copan for his years of service to our state and country and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Dr. Copan began his distinguished career in the mid-1970s, spending nearly three decades in private-sector research and technology leadership. From 2003 to 2005, he advanced America's energy innovation efforts at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, where he served in key technology transfer and commercialization roles. In 2017, he was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as Under Secretary of Commerce and Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, where he worked tirelessly to strengthen America's innovation and technology transfer policies.

In 2021, he joined the Colorado School of Mines as Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, helping the university grow as a leading public research institution. Known for his warmth and generosity, Dr. Copan has often reminded colleagues that "it's a great day to be an Oredigger."

Though he is retiring from his formal role at Mines, Dr. Copan will continue his long-standing commitment to public service and scientific advancement through his leadership with a number of national medical and scientific research organizations.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Dr. Walter G. Copan on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country and our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAJOR PAUL
S. DELLER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Major Paul S. Deller, United States Marine Corps. For the past four years, Major Deller has served with honor and distinction as a Congressional Fellow and Appropriations Liaison Officer for the Department of the Navy Appropriations Matters Office, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Financial Management and Comptroller), representing the needs of our Marine Corps before the United States Congress.

I had the distinct privilege of hosting Paul in my office during his time as a Congressional Fellow. During this time, he gained an immersive, behind the scenes understanding of the legislative process and critical work of funding our Nation's defense. His sharp intellect, dedication, and deep understanding of national security and budgetary policy were immediately apparent and proved to be an invaluable asset to my team.

Upon completion of his fellowship, Major Deller seamlessly transitioned to one of the most strategically consequential billets for the Marine Corps, serving as an Appropriations Li-

aison Officer. In this role, he conducted daily engagement with members and staff, ensuring that the Marine Corps' concepts, programs, and requirements were widely understood. His expert navigation of the congressional appropriations process and his steadfast advocacy ensured vital funding for our Marines across multiple fiscal years. His work was instrumental in supporting the largest budget in Marine Corps history, securing over \$57 billion in annual resources. This funding was essential to advancing the Marine Corps Force Design initiatives, enhancing operational readiness, and ensuring our Marines have what they need to meet any challenge.

Furthermore, Major Deller played a central role in preparing Marine Corps senior leaders for congressional testimony, official visits, responded to hundreds of congressional inquiries, and coordinated and led over 15 congressional and staff delegations. These visits allowed my colleagues and me to see Marine Corps capabilities firsthand and gain a deeper appreciation for the resource requirements of the force.

Mr. Speaker, Major Deller's performance has been characterized by the utmost professionalism, strategic insight, and steadfast commitment to his duty. He has personally strengthened the Marine Corps' credibility on Capitol Hill and ensured the Corps' priorities were clearly communicated. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing and commending Paul for his service to our country and wish him and his family the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING PARENTSCAN FAMILY
CENTER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor ParentsCAN Family Center for its twenty years of service to children with disabilities in Napa County and to recognize the work it has done as the sole Family Resource Center of Napa Valley. This celebration honors the hard work of the staff, volunteers, and supporters that have helped transform countless lives across the Napa Valley.

ParentsCAN was founded in 2005 by Joan Lockhart and a group of Napa parents, who had disabled children. These parents helped each other access services for their children by sharing information and referrals amongst themselves. Frustrated that our community did not already have an organization dedicated to the needs of disabled children in Napa, they decided to start their own. The organization gave high-quality, in-person support that was not available anywhere else in the Napa Valley. Beginning as a small group of concerned parents, they quickly grew into a large-scale organization that provided training, support groups, and community events tailored to the unique challenges faced by families in Napa County.

ParentsCAN has provided critical support, education, and advocacy to ensure families have access to resources necessary for their children to thrive. They also work with local community-based organizations, like healthcare providers or social services, to en-

sure their clients receive high quality healthcare, education, and support structures. Families across the county have felt more confident navigating the complex services that are needed to provide for their children after working with ParentsCAN. Aside from connecting parents with resources, ParentsCAN actively works with the local government to improve institutions serving children with disabilities, making the Napa Valley a safer and more accessible place to live. ParentsCAN is unique and especially well-qualified due to its "parents supporting parents" model. This structure means that all trained staff are parents or close family to children with needs, ensuring that staff are knowledgeable, experienced, and able to easily help parents or caregivers.

ParentsCAN is a federally funded Community Parent Resource Center and the only one of its kind in Napa Valley. It also represents the young disabled population of Napa in several local organizations like the Community Leaders Coalition, Voters Choice Napa, Napa Valley Committee on Disabilities, First 5 Napa County, Napa County Community Organizations Active in Disaster, and the Local Childcare planning Council.

Mr. Speaker, ParentsCAN has had a tremendous impact on the well-being of children across our Napa community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor the organization's twentieth anniversary here today as they celebrate this milestone.

CELEBRATING OUR 2026 SPRING
INTERN CLASS

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the incredible interns who dedicated their spring to serving the people of California's 20th District. From my district offices in Bakersfield and Clovis, to my office in Washington, D.C., these students exemplified a commitment to public service, working tirelessly for the good of the office and our constituents. From the beginning, they were willing to learn and proved to be both diligent and intelligent throughout their internships. Every time we interacted, it showed me what we have to look forward to from the next generation. At a time when many young Americans are avoiding politics, these interns chose to face it head on and came out stronger for it, with knowledge and experience that will carry them forward.

As their spring internships wind down, I want to sincerely express my gratitude to Christian Salyers and Sophie Newfield for their service in my Bakersfield, California office, to Rayne Hardy for her service in my Clovis, California office, and to Trinita Gregg, William MacLean, and Bode Gower for their contributions to my Washington, D.C. office. The work done by each of them has helped my team's efforts more than I can say, and I trust that the skills and educational experiences they have gained will guide them toward continued success in their future endeavors. I look forward to seeing where their paths lead, and hope those paths include a continued dedication to serving others.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JOE "FLASH" LERMA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Joe "Flash" Lerma for his outstanding service and dedication to public transportation and safety in Laredo, Texas, as he marks his well-earned retirement from El Metro Transit System.

For 33 remarkable years, Mr. Lerma served the City of Laredo with distinction, contributing to the growth and reliability of El Metro Transit, a vital system that connects our community and supports thousands of residents each day.

Throughout his career, he demonstrated a deep commitment to excellence, professionalism, and the well-being of others.

As Safety Training Coordinator, Mr. Lerma played a critical role in ensuring that operators and staff were properly trained and equipped to serve the public safely and efficiently.

His leadership helped foster a culture of accountability and care, strengthening the foundation of one of Laredo's most essential public services. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Lerma built lasting relationships across departments, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues.

His dedication extended far beyond his duties, leaving a meaningful and lasting impact on those he worked alongside and the community he served.

After more than three decades of service, Mr. Lerma leaves behind a legacy defined by commitment, integrity, and pride in public service. While he begins a new chapter, his contributions to El Metro and the City of Laredo will not be forgotten.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Joe "Flash" Lerma for his years of dedicated service and to wish him continued success and fulfillment in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING CRISOSTO APACHE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Professor Crisosto Apache of Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design for being named Colorado's Poet Laureate.

Crisosto is an accomplished multimedia artist, writer, poet, educator, and advocate for the Native American Indigenous LGBTQ/Two-spirit identity. Their recognition by the Governor of Colorado reflects Crisosto's extraordinary talent and distinguished achievements as a poet, as well as their enduring commitment to the arts, to education, and to literary expression across diverse communities. As Colorado's Poet Laureate, Crisosto will continue to amplify the voices and stories of all people who have called Colorado home, and spread the transformative and connective powers of poetry across public spaces.

Crisosto is originally from the Mescalero Apache Reservation in New Mexico and is Colorado's first Indigenous Poet Laureate.

They have published two poetry collections and received accolades, including the Betty Berzon Emerging Writers Award for their achievements in creative writing. As a long-time Lakewood resident and respected professor at the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design, Crisosto exemplifies creative excellence and outstanding service to students.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Crisosto Apache for being named Colorado's Poet Laureate and thank them for their contribution and commitment to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, on April 22, 2026, I was recorded as NAY on Roll Call Vote No. 133. I intended to vote YEA on Roll Call No. 133.

RECOGNIZING RICK MCCOY UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a dedicated public servant, Rick McCoy, who will be retiring after thirty-five years of service as the Director of the Van Wert County Emergency Management Agency. Rick's commitment to public safety has helped the county's residents weather any emergency that has come their way.

Throughout his thirty-five years of service, Rick has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the safety and resilience of Van Wert County and its residents. He has led the agency through countless emergencies, natural disasters, and unforeseen crises, ensuring that communities received the swift and coordinated responses they needed in their most vulnerable moments. Under Rick's leadership, the agency grew into a model of preparedness and professionalism, forging strong partnerships with local, state, and federal partners to protect lives and property. His steady hand and tireless dedication have left Van Wert County a safer and better-prepared county.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Rick McCoy upon his retirement. On behalf of the people of the 5th Congressional District of Ohio, I recognize the dedication and leadership that Rick has shown through his decades of service to his community. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE LIEU

HON. DAVE MIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of George Lieu, who passed away

peacefully on March 22, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. George was a resilient and spirited father, husband, and writer.

George Lieu was born in Chongqing, China, on May 22, 1944. Five years later, his family relocated to Taiwan, where he eventually received a law degree from Soochow University and served two years of military service.

In 1968, George married the love of his life, Kerry, and soon became a father to his eldest son, Ted. Shortly after, George immigrated to the United States and pursued a Master of Laws at Cleveland State University College of Law. With his heart set on bringing his wife and son to the United States, he stretched himself to build a life for his family. He took on numerous jobs while in school: dishwasher, cleaner for the school library, waiter, and day laborer. As hoped, Kerry and Ted immigrated to America in 1972, and the next year, George and Kerry's second son, John, was born. Together, George and Kerry began working weekends at flea markets, opened a small gift store, and eventually grew their efforts into a successful business spanning multiple states, building a life for their two children. They are the embodiment of the American Dream.

George's decades of determination and vision for his family eventually led him to fulfill his lifelong goal of becoming a writer. His two poetry books and his collection of short stories, "Dreams Entwined With Destiny," "Walking in the Rain," and "A Collection of Short Stories by George Lieu," were published in 2004, 2024, and 2026.

George will be remembered for his humor, liveliness, and his love for family. George is survived by his beloved wife Kerry, his two sons Representative TED LIEU and Dr. John Lieu, his daughter-in-law Betty Chim Lieu, and his grandsons Brennan and Austin.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL OF MULBERRY STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart heavy, gratitude, and memory to pay tribute to Mulberry Street United Methodist Church on the occasion of its 200th anniversary. A bicentennial that reads like a hymn of endurance, an extended prayer answered by faithful hands across generations. A worship service to celebrate this remarkable milestone was held on Sunday, April 26, 2026, in Macon, Georgia.

Two centuries ago, in 1826, thirteen earnest Methodists met in a frontier courthouse on the west bank of the Ocmulgee River. They cleared forest and laid beams, and in 1828 built a simple house of worship where, the gospel's promise was first made visible in Macon. From that modest beginning grew a congregation that hosted the first meeting of the Georgia Conference, birthed Sunday Schools that became new churches, and reached into neighborhoods with a compassion that always began at the foot of the altar.

Mulberry's history is punctuated by triumph and trial. In seasons of growth, it raised white columns and expanded its sanctuary; in lean seasons it answered cries for help with Sunday School classrooms, youth centers, dining