

members. He co-founded Independence Corps Foundation, which has donated millions of dollars in mobility equipment to veterans and first responders with disabilities. He currently sits on the board of the Tribute to Valor Foundation, an organization he helped establish to inspire students nationwide through the core values of the Medal of Honor and STEM education. His service has earned him multiple prestigious honors, including the Medal of Honor Society Patriot Award, the Order of Saint Michael from the Army Aviation Association of America, and honorary recognition from the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment and the 457th Fighter Squadron.

Captain Palmersheim's unwavering dedication to veterans, their families, and the next generation 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.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF LOS FRESNOS CHIEF OF POLICE,
HECTOR GONZALEZ

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the City of Los Fresnos Chief of Police, Hector Gonzalez, whose retirement marks the conclusion of forty-five years of outstanding service in law enforcement.

Chief Gonzalez's leadership has kept our community safe, enabled our continued growth, and made the Rio Grande Valley a desirable place to live.

As a mentor to countless men and women in uniform, he instilled core values of accountability, transparency, and respect, which will leave a lasting and positive impact on the Los Fresnos Police Department.

Chief Gonzalez served Los Fresnos with honor, integrity and courage, while maintaining a steadfast commitment to the safety and well-being of everyone in our community.

I am honored to represent some of the best of South Texas, including those who put their lives on the line each day to keep our communities safe. Under Chief Gonzalez's leadership, Los Fresnos Police has gone above and beyond, fostering trust between law enforcement and the community they serve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I thank Chief Hector Gonzalez for his service to the people of Los Fresnos and congratulate him on his much-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD
"EDDIE" COLE

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Edward "Eddie" Cole, a devoted public servant, community advocate, and beloved leader who passed away on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the age of 67.

Eddie Cole proudly served as Mayor of Florida's oldest Black incorporated municipality, the Historic Town of Eatonville from 2016 to 2022.

A tireless champion for preserving Eatonville's history, including the legacy of the Hungerford School, Mayor Cole led with passion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to his community.

Beyond public service, he spent more than 30 years as an assistant coach for the Rollins College women's basketball team, earning induction into the Rollins Sports Hall of Fame in 2023. He also served as chaplain for the Orlando Magic, offering guidance and faith to players and staff.

Perhaps his greatest pride was his two decades as executive director of Every Kid Outreach Inc., where he transformed countless young lives through mentorship, encouragement, and opportunity.

While his accomplishments were many, Eddie Cole's greatest impact was the love he poured into people.

Mayor Cole led with love, compassion, and a deep commitment to uplifting others, serving his community for decades as a public servant, coach, and trusted leader.

Sending much love and prayers to his family, loved ones, and all who were blessed to know him. His legacy of service will live on forever.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN POTTINGER

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 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 Major General Kevin Pottinger, United States Air Force, of Keller, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Major General Pottinger served with distinction in the United States Air Force for nearly four decades, from 1976 to 2015. A command pilot with more than 3,500 flight hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon, he held leadership positions at every level, culminating in his role as Commander of the 301st Fighter Wing and later as Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, Pacific Air Forces, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. Following his initial retirement, he selflessly returned to active duty after the September 11th terrorist attacks to fly combat missions in the War on Terror, exemplifying the Air Force core values of integrity, service, and excellence. His military decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Service Medal with silver oak leaf cluster, Air Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, and numerous campaign and service awards recognizing his combat readiness and humanitarian contributions.

Following his military career, Major General Pottinger has continued to serve his state and Nation through leadership, mentorship, and

advocacy for veterans. Appointed by Texas Governor Greg Abbott as Presiding Officer of the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, he works to strengthen Texas' military installations and ensure their continued role in national defense. As President of the Freedom Mobility Foundation, he leads efforts to provide adaptive vehicles and mobility equipment to severely injured veterans empowering them to regain independence and quality of life.

Major General Pottinger's exceptional record of military leadership, combined with his unwavering commitment to veterans and the community, reflects the highest traditions of the United States Air Force and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 18; NAY on Roll Call No. 19; YEA on Roll Call No. 20; YEA on Roll Call No. 21; YEA on Roll Call No. 22; and NAY on Roll Call No. 23.

HONORING ABRAHAM ALEXANDER

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Abraham Alexander for receiving the Stephen Bruton Award.

Mr. Alexander grew up and began his career in Fort Worth. In remarkable fashion, his music career has soared, earning him national recognition and numerous accolades. The Stephen Bruton Award recognizes Mr. Alexander for his contribution to the film industry through his song "Like a Bird" in the film Sing Sing. As filmmaker and fellow Fort Worth native Taylor Sheridan described, Mr. Alexander is a "dreamer who is living that dream."

For eighteen years, the Lone Star Film Festival has brought together filmmakers, producers, and musicians from across the media and entertainment industry for its prestigious award show. With the reception of the Stephen Bruton Award, Mr. Alexander joins the ranks of celebrated musicians such as Willie Nelson, Clint Black, and Pat Green.

On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Mr. Alexander's outstanding achievement in music. His success is an inspiration to the City of Fort Worth and our community. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Alexander and look forward to seeing what he creates next.

RECOGNIZING JAMES LEONARD
WILLIAMS

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 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 Major General James Leonard Williams, United States Marine Corps, of Dallas, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Major General Williams served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for more than 38 years, including both active and reserve duty during multiple conflicts. Over the course of his career, he held numerous leadership and command positions within the 4th Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Combined Joint Task Force 180, and 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, Special Operations Capable. His operational service included deployments supporting the War on Drugs and combat tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. His military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Secretary of Defense Service Badge, among numerous other honors.

Beyond his exemplary military career, Major General Williams has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to public service, education, and community leadership. He has served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association, InfraGard North Texas Alliance, North Texas Crime Commission, and the Veterans Advisory Board for the VA North Texas Health Care System. He is President of the Board for International Leadership of Texas, a public charter school district, and serves as an advisor to both the Tarleton State University School of Criminal Justice and the Tower Center for Political Science at Southern Methodist University.

Major General Williams also dedicates extensive time to helping veterans navigate the VA system, offering mentorship, guidance, and financial coaching to help fellow servicemembers and their families succeed in civilian life. His leadership, compassion, and devotion to service continue to strengthen North Texas communities and inspire future generations.

Major General Williams' extraordinary record of military and civic service reflects the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and brings great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

THE LIGHT WILL WIN

HON. BRADLEY SCOTT SCHNEIDER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, last week, the bipartisan House Abraham Accords Caucus was privileged to host Rabbi Yehoram Ulman and Ahmed al-Ahmed, of Sydney, Australia, and survivors of the terrorist attack at Bondi Beach last month.

When a father-and-son pair of ISIS-inspired gunmen began massacring Jews during a Hanukkah celebration on the beach—murdering 15 people, including Rabbi Ulman's son-in-law—Ahmed, a Muslim who was at the event

by serendipity, rushed for cover. As one of the terrorists approached his position, Ahmed heroically rose to the moment, charged, and single-handedly disarmed the attacker, saving countless lives.

On behalf of the entire Abraham Accords Caucus, I thank Rabbi Ulman and Mr. al-Ahmed for traveling here and passionately sharing their stories. I also thank my many colleagues for joining us to honor these two great men.

The Abraham Accords Caucus was formed after the accords were signed five years ago on a simple belief: Jews and Arabs belong to the same land, and elevating the people will elevate the land and bring peace to everyone in the region.

Yesterday, Rabbi Ulman and Ahmed al-Ahmed showed that this spirit extends far beyond the Middle East. Their shared humanity and embrace of each other reflects our hope for the future, a future in which people see the dignity and grace in one another and have the strength to stand up and confront hatred and evil.

As I told Ahmed, he is a hero to us all. He teaches us that love of the stranger can lift us all and defeat hatred. Or, as Rabbi Ulman and Mr. al-Ahmed have titled their visit around the world, "The Light Will Win."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT C. CONAWAY, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for part of votes on January 12, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

RECOGNIZING KENNETH A. HARRISON

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 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 Staff Sergeant Kenneth A. Harrison, United States Air Force, of Keller, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Staff Sergeant Harrison served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970 during the Vietnam War, where he was assigned to the 12th Reconnaissance Intelligence Technical Squadron. In that role, he provided critical intelligence and reconnaissance support, contributing to the success of U.S. operations in Southeast Asia. His professionalism, dedication, and skill earned him the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, and Air Force Medal 900 in recognition of his exemplary performance and commitment to duty.

Following his military service, Staff Sergeant Harrison devoted himself to improving edu-

cation, civic engagement, and community development in Keller and Tarrant County, serving for twelve years on the Keller Independent School District Board of Trustees. Additionally, he is a founding member of the Keller ISD Education Foundation, which continues to provide grants and stipends to outstanding teachers and programs that enhance student learning opportunities.

In addition to his education leadership, he has held numerous community and civic roles, including Treasurer of the Keller Chamber of Commerce Board, Chair of the Boy Scouts' Friends of Scouting fundraising campaign, Foundation Chair and past President of the Golden Triangle Rotary Club, and member of the Fort Worth Symphony Board. Through these positions, Staff Sergeant Harrison has played an instrumental role in raising funds and building partnerships that strengthen schools, support youth development, and enrich the cultural life of North Texas.

Staff Sergeant Harrison's exemplary service to his Nation and his lifelong dedication to the Keller community reflect the highest traditions of the United States Air Force and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING THE SANDERS TRAVEL CENTRE ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY AND FORBES TRAVEL GUIDE ENDORSEMENT

HON. CRAIG A. GOLDMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sanders Travel Centre in Fort Worth, Texas. For 30 years, Sanders Travel Centre has been guiding people in luxury travel and has been recognized with an endorsement by Forbes Travel Guide.

Trust is a major factor in booking travel and for three decades Sanders Travel Centre has excelled in building and maintaining that much needed trust. Their diverse expertise in advising individual, group, and corporate travelers on both domestic and international destinations, along with their dedication to a luxury experience is what makes them stand out. Forbes Travel Guide, a prestigious luxury travel rating system, has also acknowledged and endorsed Sanders Travel Centre for their hard work in the hospitality industry. This endorsement marks them as one of the top 50 travel agencies in the world, quantifying what we, in Fort Worth, have long recognized.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to offer my congratulations to Sanders Travel Centre on their 30th Anniversary and endorsement by Forbes Travel Guide.

RECOGNIZING TODD BOEDING

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 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.