

in Washington, D.C. He also demonstrated a deep commitment to community development as the first African American President of League Management Corporation in Yazoo City, providing essential housing services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities.

In public office, Senator Thomas continued to make history as the first African American State Senator from Yazoo County, representing Mississippi State Senate District 22 with integrity, vision, and dedication to his constituents.

Senator Thomas embodies the very best of public service—breaking barriers, uplifting communities, and paving the way for future generations. His life's work stands as a testament to perseverance, leadership, and an unwavering commitment to progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Senator Joseph C. Thomas, Sr. for his remarkable contributions and for the legacy he has created for the people of Mississippi and our Nation.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate National Police Week.

As we honor the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication of our Nation's law enforcement officers, we pay special tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their selfless service and devotion to protecting our communities will never be forgotten.

As a Representative from Pennsylvania, I am especially honored to recognize the 19 fallen officers from our Commonwealth whose names were added this year to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Wall. Their commitment to serve and protect stood above all personal interest, reflecting the very best of our Nation.

In my district, we are fortunate to be served by exceptional law enforcement professionals. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with Blair County Sheriff Jim Ott, whose leadership in coordinating Pennsylvania's annual law enforcement memorial service in Hollidaysburg demonstrates the deep respect owed to those who have fallen in the line of duty. His example reminds us that honoring these heroes is not simply a responsibility—it is a solemn privilege.

I offer my enduring gratitude and appreciation—this week and every week—for every man and woman who wears the badge.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DELIA C. RAMIREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 155.

HONORING PEORIA POLICE CHIEF ERIC ECHEVARRIA

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria who is retiring from the City of Peoria Police Department. Chief Echevarria is a pillar of the Peoria community and will be truly missed.

Peoria Police Chief Eric Echevarria oversees and directs all activities of the Peoria Police Department, which has almost 250 employees, the majority of them police officers. His work focuses on reducing serious crime, fostering community partnerships, improving traffic safety and promoting employee development. His achievements have been significant—driving violent gun crime down, improving the quality of life in Peoria's neighborhoods, expanding community policing, establishing a social services unit co-responder program, increasing the number of sworn personnel in the department, expanding the department's use of technology, and significantly increasing grant funding.

Chief Echevarria's goal when he arrived in Peoria five years ago was simple: to leave the department and community better than he found it. He certainly has done that. It is because of selfless leaders such as Chief Echevarria that I am especially proud to serve the Illinois 17th Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Chief Echevarria on his well-earned retirement and thank him for all of his contributions and service to our community.

HONORING CAPTAIN NOAH FRAHER

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Noah Fraher, who served as the congressional Green and Gold aide in my office for the past two years.

Noah transformed how my office engages with Arizona's veteran community. From his first days in our Mesa office, he worked to ensure veterans across the East Valley knew they had an advocate in Congress who would listen to their concerns and help connect them with the support they earned through their service. He attended countless meetings, events, and community forums with veterans and military families, always bringing compassion, professionalism, and a genuine commitment to service.

One of Noah's most lasting contributions was transforming and improving our office's Veterans Advisory Board, which has become a trusted and respected forum for local veterans to engage directly with my office. He also helped organize our first Veterans Resource Fair and Salute to Service military sendoff ceremony, creating meaningful opportunities for servicemembers, veterans, and military families to access resources and build community. Because of Noah's work, our of-

fice built stronger relationships with veterans across Arizona's 4th Congressional District and became better equipped to serve them.

Noah brought the same sense of duty to our office that he demonstrates every day in uniform. As an active member of the Arizona Army National Guard, he served both at home and abroad, including training Ukrainian soldiers in Germany as they prepared to defend their country against Russian aggression. He also supported operations in Afghanistan and helped coordinate National Guard missions across Arizona. Through every assignment, Noah demonstrated a deep commitment to others.

Even while balancing military service, weekend drills, and training responsibilities, Noah worked tirelessly for constituents and for Arizona veterans. And anyone who knows Noah knows he has never been afraid to take a big bite out of a challenge. Throughout his service, Noah's husband, Mikey, stood alongside him with constant support and encouragement.

A lifelong Arizonan, Noah represents the very best of our state. His service strengthened my office, deepened our connection to Arizona veterans, and left a lasting impact on the community we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Noah Fraher for his service to our Nation, to Arizona veterans, and to the people of Arizona's 4th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF CRIME COMMISSION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRYAN TUMA

HON. MIKE FLOOD

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a dedicated public servant and leader in Nebraska law enforcement, Bryan Tuma.

Over nearly 45 years of service to the State of Nebraska, Bryan built a legacy defined by integrity, leadership, and a steadfast commitment to keeping Nebraska safe. From beginning his career with the Nebraska State Patrol to later serving as superintendent, Bryan earned the trust and respect of law enforcement officers and communities across our state.

Bryan's duty and legacy was earned through leadership roles with the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency and as Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Whether strengthening emergency preparedness, supporting law enforcement training, or guiding the Crime Commission with steady leadership, Bryan's work and tenacity helped keep Nebraskans safe and prepared in times of need.

While his retirement marks the close of an extraordinary career in public service, Nebraska is stronger because of Bryan Tuma's dedication and sacrifice. I congratulate him on a truly remarkable career and thank him for his service to our state. Happy retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PORTER
G. PEEPLES

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of Lexington, Kentucky's most influential citizens, Porter G. Peeples. Better known as P.G., he was the longtime leader of the Urban League of Lexington-Fayette County. He passed away while working in his office on April 28, 2026. Peeples is survived by his wife, Wilma, a son and daughter, and two grandchildren.

Peeples was born in Lynch, Kentucky on October 26, 1945, where his father was a coal miner. He attended the Lynch Public Colored School until desegregation happened his senior year in high school. During his life he kept close ties with other African Americans with roots in Eastern Kentucky coal towns. The first in his family to go to college, Peeples attended South East Community College and transferred to the University of Kentucky during his junior year, where he was one of around 50 black undergraduates. He was a volunteer with the newly formed Urban League. Soon after his graduation in 1968, he took a job at the Urban League as Education Director. In 1972 he was named Executive Director and worked there until his death.

The Urban League focused on workforce training, minority business support, and mentoring programs for young people. Through Peeples' efforts, they began to also work on affordable housing issues. Today the Urban League has more than 100 rentals and is a part of a partnership developing 12.5 acres dedicated to affordable housing. He worked with the Kentucky Housing Corporation to secure low-interest loans for buyers and was appointed to its board in the 1980s. He was serving on that board at the time of his death.

Peeples was also a champion for civil rights. He was well-respected by the business community, government leaders, and non-profit agencies. Peeples excelled at developing and nurturing relationships with people throughout the Lexington community. I appreciated his leadership, his love for our community, and our conversations about how to improve opportunities for the citizens of Lexington.

P.G. Peeples was a respected leader whose many accomplishments leave a lasting legacy on Lexington and the many individuals whose lives were influenced by his persistence, his passion, and his selfless, humble nature. It is my honor to lift up his life before the U.S. House of Representatives.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MS. JANE GARCÍA, CEO OF LA
CLÍNICA DE LA RAZA, INC.

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of a towering figure in the Bay Area, the Chief Executive Officer of La Clínica de La Raza, Inc., Ms. Jane García.

Ms. García was born in El Paso, Texas in 1953. Like far too many Americans, Ms.

García grew up uninsured, only visiting doctors in times of great desperation and sickness. Ms. García's challenging experience inspired her to pursue an education in public health.

In 1975, Ms. García moved to the East Bay. In 1977, she began her Master of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. During her studies, Ms. García interned for a local healthcare clinic based in East Oakland. Called La Clínica de La Raza, the clinic offered comprehensive free medical services to a largely Latino population that was underserved by the healthcare system.

In 1982, Ms. García would rise to the role of CEO of La Clínica, which was then a small, community-based project with a \$2 million budget. During her nearly 45-year tenure, La Clínica grew into an expansive community healthcare system with an annual budget exceeding \$175 million, a designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center, and a staff of more than 1,200 committed caregivers. La Clínica expanded its care options to include a range of culturally appropriate and accessible primary and preventative care services. La Clínica now serves over 82,000 patients a year across 35 sites in Alameda, Contra Costa, and Solano Counties. More than 386,000 annual patient visits are made to La Clínica sites around the Bay Area. Ms. García's leadership has ensured that care is not only accessible, but culturally relevant and meets patients where they are, with dignity and respect.

In addition to her work with La Clínica, Ms. García has been widely recognized as an authority on issues of health and health equity. Ms. García's fierce advocacy was instrumental in ensuring continued state funding for prenatal care for immigrant women. Ms. García is a founding member and served as Chair of the California Primary Care Association, representing community health centers across the state of California. She has also served as Chair of the California Endowment, Alameda Alliance for Health, Community Health Center Network, Community Clinic Consortium, and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the California Primary Care Association and Aliados Health. Ms. García has received an array of honors for her decades-long commitment to community health and service. She has been awarded the Common Cause Award for Public Service Achievement, the National Association of Community Health Centers' Betsey K. Cooke Advocacy MVP Award, induction into both the Alameda and Contra Costa County Women's Hall of Fame, recognition as a Most Admired CEO and one of the Most Influential Women in Business by the San Francisco Business Times, designation as UC Berkeley School of Public Health Alumna of the Year in 2019 and one of the school's 75 Most Influential Alumni, and received the 2025 Samuel Merritt University Health Impact Award. In 2025, Ms. García was selected by Assemblymember Buffy Wicks as Woman of the Year for California Assembly District 15. In 2026, she was selected by Assemblymember Mia Bonta as Woman of the Year for California Assembly District 18.

Throughout her many decades of work in the Bay Area, Ms. García has proven time and time again to be a committed and indefatigable leader and advocate in the field of community healthcare. Her visionary leadership has resulted in transformational change for

thousands of California's most vulnerable and underserved residents. I sincerely thank Ms. García for her tireless work and wish her the very best in her retirement.

HONORING ALICIA MARDINI

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alicia Mardini as she retires from her role as the CEO of East Valley Community Health Center (EVCHC).

Ms. Mardini has served EVCHC for 47 years, including 45 years where she has led the organization as CEO. Throughout her service, she has inspired EVCHC's leadership, vision, and organization, transforming the organization from a free clinic into a Federally Qualified Health Center.

Ms. Alicia Mardini earned her Master of Business Administration from University of Southern California in 1984, building a crucial foundation for serving tens of thousands of patients. Under her leadership, EVCHC has grown to serve more than 31,000 patients each year at locations throughout Pomona and the San Gabriel Valley.

Hailing from Peru, Alicia is fluent in both English and Spanish, allowing her to integrate two different cultural perspectives to her leadership. Under Ms. Mardini's direction, EVCHC serves diverse populations in the East San Gabriel Valley and Pomona communities. It assists individuals and families in need of various healthcare services from wellness check-ups to dental care, to counseling, to chronic illness treatment.

Beyond her leadership at EVCHC, Ms. Mardini sits on numerous community and agency advisory boards and committees, including county and state trade associations that represent community health centers.

Her advocacy includes serving as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Los Angeles County Community Clinic Association (CCALAC) throughout 2012 and 2013. As recently as 2024 and 2025, she also served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of Health Care Los Angeles, Independent Practice Association, which is the largest Medi-Cal Independent Practice Association in California.

Ms. Mardini's work has left my hometown, Pomona, and the San Gabriel Valley, much better and healthier places. For her inspiring commitment to equitable health care and her remarkable leadership as the CEO of East Valley Community Health Center, it is my honor to recognize Ms. Alicia Mardini ahead of her retirement.

RECOGNIZING CHEMUNG COUNTY
SHERIFF'S INVESTIGATOR MI-
CHAEL THEETGE

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the profound bravery of