

HONORING DR. JEFF MATTNER

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Jeff Mattner from Martinsville, Indiana, a devoted educator whose impact on education will be felt for years to come. For 14 years, Dr. Mattner served with the Association of Christian Schools International as Senior Director of the Central Division, supporting more than 600 schools across 18 states with wisdom, integrity, and a servant's heart.

Throughout his decades-long career as a teacher, principal, superintendent, and trusted advisor, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing educational opportunity and strengthening communities through faith-based education. Guided by his faith, Dr. Mattner also engaged in advocacy efforts that advanced the mission of Christian schools. His legacy endures in the countless students, educators, and families he influenced through his service, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family. May he rest in peace.

HONORING ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT CHAIRMAN
RYAN GALLAGHER**HON. YOUNG KIM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ryan Gallagher for completing his tenure as Chairman of the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors, having served from July 2024 through June 2026.

In his various positions, Chairman Gallagher has provided nearly six years of continuous leadership and vision to the OC San Board of Directors, Administration Committee, Steering Committee, Operations Committee, Groundwater Replenishment System Steering Committee, General Manager Recruitment Ad Hoc Committee, and OC San/Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority Joint Policy Committee.

Tustin City Councilmember Ryan Gallagher was born and raised in Southern California and holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He is a licensed Civil Engineer in the State of California and was elected to the Tustin City Council in 2020.

Mr. Gallagher was elected to serve as Chairman of the OC San Board in 2024 and serves as a member of the Water Advisory Committee of Orange County and Newport Bay Watershed Executive Committee. Prior to joining the City Council, Ryan proudly served on the Tustin Planning Commission and as past Board President of Orange County Water Association, as well as in past Board President roles for local chapters of the Association of Water Agencies, American Public Works Association, and American Society of Civil Engineers.

Ryan is the Chief Operations Officer of MKN, a water and wastewater consulting firm. He previously served as a Vice President of a

national engineering firm and Associate Vice President of a Fortune 500 global engineering firm. In his role, he works with local municipalities to plan and design clean water infrastructure for the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water to communities throughout Southern California, which earned him recognition as one of the top 20 engineers in the country under 40 by Engineering News-Record in 2019.

During his tenure as Board Chairman from July 2024 through June 2026, Chairman Gallagher compiled a remarkable record of accomplishment. He championed the rollout of the Resource Innovation for a Sustainable Environment program—known as RISE—a forward-looking initiative focused on water, energy, solids, and air that positions OC San to meet future environmental and operational challenges. He oversaw continued fiscal strength, including maintaining OC San's AAA credit ratings from all three major agencies for the 15th consecutive year, reinforcing affordability and responsible rate management.

Chairman Gallagher directed Board efforts on the 2025 Strategic Plan update, including the addition of a new policy focus on potable water salinity control and continued emphasis on environmental stewardship and fiscal discipline. He supported the launch of OC San's redesigned website, improving accessibility, transparency, and ease of use for customers and stakeholders, and oversaw increased public engagement efforts—including community events, tours, and educational programs reaching thousands of residents and students across the service area.

He also supported initiatives that strengthened workplace culture, including a highly successful employee engagement survey with strong participation and positive feedback on meaningful work and growth opportunities. And throughout his chairmanship, he reinforced OC San's leadership in regulatory compliance and environmental protection through programs like the Pretreatment Honor Roll and longstanding ocean monitoring efforts that protect coastal water quality.

I want to thank Chairman Gallagher for his exemplary service and dedication to OC San and the communities we serve and wish him all the best in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF MS. SERAFINA DE LOS SANTOS**HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the career of a faithful servant to our Nation, Ms. Serafina L. De Los Santos, as she retires from the United States Air Force as the Executive Director to the Commander of the 502nd Force Support Group at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). Ms. De Los Santos selflessly served our Nation in the civilian service for 23 years, dedicating herself to ensuring the highest operational standards for our military. Her commitment to service also extended to the San Antonio community and I am grateful for her contributions to our neighbors.

A native of Brownsville, Texas, Ms. De Los Santos' military career began in 1977 when

she began a 5-year tenure with the Air Force. Following her departure in 1982, she enrolled as a student at the University of Houston where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science in 1986.

Upon receiving her degree, Ms. De Los Santos was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army. She served as an officer until she retired from active duty in 2004 with the rank of Major. Following her retirement, she began her civil service career as the Senior Logistics Officer for the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade. She would remain with the Army until 2010, when she joined the Department of the Air Force's civil service as the Deputy for Installation Support during the transformation of JBSA. In December of 2013, Ms. De Los Santos became the Executive Director to the Commander of the 502nd Force Support Group.

As Executive Director, she oversaw the group's budget and personnel across four military installations—JBSA Randolph, JBSA Lackland, JBSA Fort Sam Houston and JBSA Camp Bullis. Additionally, she was responsible for the base's Community Partnership for Transitioning Service Members, Military Spouses and Family Programs.

Throughout her career, Ms. De Los Santos received numerous awards and decorations, including the Senior Civilian Service Award, the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and the Meritorious Service Medal. Ms. De Los Santos was also a dedicated community servant. She helped create and maintain partnerships between the community and military, contributing immensely to the continued growth of San Antonio as Military City, U.S.A.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable career of Ms. Serafina De Los Santos. Her leadership and commitment to our Nation will be long remembered and may future generations of leaders look towards her as a shining example.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PUBLIC SERVICE HOUSING DIRECTOR
STEVEN KELSO**HON. MIKE FLOOD**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Steve Kelso, a quiet, humble and dedicated public servant whose passing is being deeply felt across Nebraska.

Steve devoted more than 40 years to Nebraska's housing industry and public service. Through hard work, integrity and deep expertise, he rose from an entry-level housing manufacturing position to lead the Nebraska Public Service Commission's Housing and Recreational Vehicle Department. Colleagues knew him as unfailingly friendly and approachable, but also deeply committed to protecting public safety and ensuring high standards across the housing industry.

Steve's service extended far beyond state government. He devoted countless hours as a volunteer firefighter, emergency medical technician and EMS instructor, helping train first responders in small towns and rural communities across Nebraska. Even while battling cancer, Steve continued assisting others and serving his community until his final days.

Those who knew Steve will remember his humor, kindness and extraordinary commitment to community. Steve Kelso was, in every sense, a quintessential Nebraskan.

On behalf of the people of Nebraska, I extend heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, coworkers and all those whose lives he touched through his years of service.

RECOGNIZING NORMA CES

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norma Ces, as she enters retirement from her long-time role at the Embassy of Ireland, USA. Her exceptional service over the years deserves celebration. I know I join many of my colleagues in commending her for all she has done to promote the relationship between the United States of America and Ireland.

Norma first joined the Embassy of Ireland, USA in December 1984, first as assistant to the Deputy Chief of Mission. She then moved to the consular section in 2000, where she helped Irish citizens in need and assisted many Americans secure Irish citizenship and their first Irish passport. In 2010, she started in the Ambassador's office. She has since supported four different Irish Ambassadors to the United States, Michael Collins, Anne Anderson, Daniel Mulhall, and Geraldine Byrne Nason.

Her exceptional dedication and passion for her work have undoubtedly left an indelible mark on the Irish American community, especially in Washington, D.C. Norma played a key role in enhancing Ireland's political, cultural, and economic engagement in D.C. and across the United States. Her contribution to the Embassy has been essential in facilitating the vibrant transatlantic relationship between the United States and Ireland. The deep community that she helped foster is a testament to her unwavering commitment to excellence in her daily life.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Norma's retirement, we honor her contribution to the Embassy of Ireland, USA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on Friday, May 15, 2026, for an important family commitment. I will be present and voting when the House returns to session this week. Had I been present, I would have voted; NAY on Roll Call No. 174, and YEA on Roll Call No. 175.

HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MS. JENNIFER YEZAK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jennifer Yezak of Bremond, Texas, on her retirement after more than 35 years of distinguished service to American agriculture.

Jennifer currently serves as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations for Texas A&M AgriLife, and she is one of those rare individuals who has touched nearly every corner of agricultural policy.

From the Texas House and Texas Department of Agriculture, to USDA, to the halls of Congress, to the boardrooms of national associations, and ultimately to Texas A&M AgriLife, she has been the university system's leading voice for agriculture and natural resources in Washington.

Along the way, she earned a reputation as someone who gets things done, who builds relationships that last, and who never lost sight of why any of this work matters—the farmers, ranchers, and rural communities she grew up among in central Texas.

Texas A&M and the entire Texas agricultural community have been well served by Jennifer's expertise, her steady hand, and her deep commitment to advancing policies that support food production, natural resources, and rural prosperity.

She has been an invaluable advocate, and her fingerprints are on more wins for Texas agriculture than most people will ever know.

We wish Jennifer and her family all the best as she begins this next chapter. She has more than earned it.

HONORING DR. GONZALO SALAZAR'S SERVICE TO LOS FRESNOS CISD

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Dr. Gonzalo Salazar for his dedication to the students, educators, and families of Los Fresnos Consolidated Independent School District (CISD).

Over the course of his distinguished career, Dr. Salazar has served in numerous leadership roles within the Los Fresnos CISD, culminating in his tenure as Superintendent beginning in 2006. From his early service as Assistant Principal at Lopez-Riggins Elementary to his leadership as Principal of Palmer-Laakso Elementary and Olmito Elementary, Dr. Salazar consistently worked to expand opportunities and improve outcomes for students.

Under his leadership, campuses earned recognition for college readiness from the Texas Education Agency, reflecting his commitment to equipping students with the tools they need to succeed. As Superintendent, Dr. Salazar prioritized educator support through professional development and innovative leadership initiatives, strengthening the district as a whole

and fostering a culture of excellence. In recognition of these efforts, Dr. Salazar was named Region One Superintendent of the Year in 2024, reflecting his vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to educational achievement.

Dr. Salazar's career stands as a great example of the impact someone can have on an entire community. His legacy will live on in the success of the countless students and families he has served throughout South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas's 34th Congressional District, I commend Dr. Salazar for his exemplary service and extend my deepest gratitude for his contributions to the Los Fresnos community and beyond.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN LYLE KEENAN

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life and legacy of Mr. John Lyle Keenan of Jasper County, Mississippi. Mr. Keenan was a respected law enforcement officer and a devoted husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, and friend whose service and character left a lasting mark on his community.

Born in Rose Hill, Mississippi, Mr. Keenan graduated from Heidelberg High School in 1964. He began his career at La-Z-Boy in Newton before entering public service as a deputy with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office. In 1977, he joined the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks as a Conservation Officer, where he served with distinction for more than three decades. He rose to the rank of Captain for District IV before retiring in 2010. Two years later, the Jasper County Board of Supervisors appointed him interim sheriff, and he concluded his law enforcement career as a bailiff for the Circuit Court.

Mr. Keenan's dedication to public service extended well beyond his official duties. He was deeply committed to the stewardship of Mississippi's natural resources and served as Jasper County Director of the Pat Harrison Waterway District. He also held leadership roles as president of the Jasper Farm Bureau, the Jasper County Soil and Water Commission, the Meridian Stockyard Board of Directors, the Mississippi Pork Producers, and the Heidelberg Academy Athletic Booster Club.

He remained active in numerous civic and agricultural organizations, including the Jasper County Forestry Association, the Jasper County Livestock Association, and the Bay Springs Lions Club, in his personal time, he worked in forestry management, raised swine and cattle, and maintained a garden, reflecting a lifelong connection to the land and the people who depend on it.

Mr. Keenan was widely regarded as a man of integrity, honor, loyalty, and wisdom. Many sought his counsel on both personal and professional matters, a testament to the trust he earned throughout his life. He was a faithful member of Wesley Independent Methodist Church, where he lived out the values that guided his service.