

HONORING THE WORK OF ALLAN
MELLIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Allan Mellis. Allan passed away peacefully at 81 years-old at Illinois Masonic Hospital on Sunday, April 26, 2026. After joining the Wrightwood Neighbors Association board in 1974, he remained there for over 50 years, serving a two-year stint as president.

Allan was brought to Chicago through his work for IBM where he was responsible for, and the first employee of, IBM's desktop publishing department. Allan quickly became an integral part of the community and served Wrightwood Neighbors, Lincoln Park, and Chicago for decades. Even after suffering a stroke in 2021, Allan, a master negotiator, fiercely advocated for one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the city.

Allan spearheaded a yearslong campaign to transform Lincoln Park library, including designing plans and securing funding. Today, it's one of the busiest library branches in Chicago. He was a firm supporter of disabled rights and helped make Fullerton Station accessible to disabled riders in 2008. He helped to start the Taste of Lincoln Avenue street festival, which has been replicated in similar events around the city. He was affectionately known as "the mayor of Lincoln Park" and that is reflected by the 93 boxes of his community papers housed at DePaul university. Allan also collected over 30,000 items of ice cream memorabilia throughout his life, a portion of which has been on display at the Museum of Science and Industry for fifty years, earning him the nickname "Mr. Ice Cream."

Allan's legacy will be one of caring for the community, being a good neighbor, and consistently performing small selfless acts to create a lasting impact on those around you. Evidence of his decadeslong commitment to his community will endure for years to come throughout Lincoln Park.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Allan's five decades of service and his commitment to, and success in, improving every community he was a part of.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Lick Observatory.

In 1876, the United States Congress granted public land to the University of California for the purpose of establishing an observatory. California's wealthiest citizen of the time, real estate entrepreneur James Lick bestowed \$700,000 to the University of California's astronomy department. With an investment equivalent to \$1.2 billion in contemporary value, James Lick created a legacy of scientific research and advancement.

The Lick Observatory has been a bastion of groundbreaking discoveries in astronomy since its completion in 1888. The Great Refractor, the site's famous 36-inch diameter telescope, was instrumental to E.E. Barnard's discovery of Jupiter's fifth moon, Amalthea. Another instrument, the 20-inch Double Astrograph, was used to chart skies and count distant galaxies. The Lick Northern Proper Motion program measure systematic patterns in the Milky Way Galaxy.

Through the decades, the Lick Observatory has freely shared its research with international academic institutions and the surrounding Bay Area community. It serves as an experimentation site for technical instrument improvement. They organize programs like the Scientific Teaching through Astronomy Research (STARs) and Institute for Scientist and Engineer Educators (ISEE) that advance STEM education and careers. Its summer visitor's program hosts lectures and viewings for thousands of visitors to observe the universe through cutting edge technology.

In its 150-year history, the Lick Observatory has survived challenges to its instruments' longevity and the observatory's ability to offer hands-on programs. The site survived a plane crash, earthquake damage, and wildfire destruction. On Christmas morning, a rainstorm destroyed half of the Great Refractor's shutter dome. Time and time again, the Observatory has rebuilt. I want to recognize the 29 dedicated individuals who spent their holidays working on recovery efforts for the site. Their hard work represents how beloved the Lick Observatory is to the community.

I wish to congratulate the Lick Observatory for 150 years of outstanding scientific contributions and meaningful community building in the Bay Area. Spanning generations of Californians, the Lick Observatory inspires exploration in astronomy and engages the innovative curiosity of the community.

HONORING LUCIA G. McDONALD

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a remarkable woman whose life reflects the resilience, faith, and strength that have helped shape our island of Guam for generations—Ms. Lucia G. McDonald—as she reaches the extraordinary milestone of her 100th birthday.

Born on November 29, 1926, Lucia has witnessed a century of history and has lived a life marked by perseverance, devotion, and unwavering commitment to family. Reaching one hundred years of age is an incredible accomplishment. Yet what makes this occasion truly special is not simply the number of years she has lived, but the legacy she has built throughout those years.

Ms. McDonald's story is also a story of Guam. As a young girl growing up in pre-war Hagåtña, she enjoyed a childhood filled with family, friends, and the simple joys of island life. She fondly remembered walking through the streets of Hagåtña with her friends, enjoying the close-knit community that defined Guam before World War II. Her family was preparing for a major move to California,

where her stepfather, a member of the United States Navy, had gone ahead to establish a home for them. But history had other plans.

The outbreak of World War II and the Japanese occupation forever altered the course of her life. Like many members of Guam's Greatest Generation, Lucia endured years of hardship, uncertainty, and fear. Her family was forced from their home and sought refuge with relatives in rural areas of the island. They experienced food shortages, violence, and the daily realities of living under occupation. They witnessed the devastation of war and the destruction of the community they once knew. Through it all, Lucia survived. Her experiences stand as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and suffering endured by the people of Guam during one of the darkest chapters in our island's history.

Following the war, she helped build a new life. In 1948, Lucia married Charles Henry Mariano McDonald, and together they built a home and family in Agana Heights. Their marriage would span nearly five decades and be blessed with twelve children. Through the years, their family continued to grow, eventually including 37 grandchildren, 58 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren. Few accomplishments speak more powerfully to a life well lived than generations of family gathered together because of the love and foundation established by a mother and grandmother.

While raising twelve children, Lucia embraced her role as a homemaker. She managed a busy household while helping care for a large farm filled with livestock, crops, and the countless responsibilities that came with supporting a growing family. Yet despite the demands of raising children and maintaining a home, she always found time for family gatherings, community events, and helping others. Friends and relatives knew her as someone who enjoyed bringing people together and celebrating life's special moments.

Faith has always been at the center of Lucia's life. She devoted countless hours to her church and parish community. Whether preparing food for church functions, participating in Christian Mothers activities, leading rosaries, or attending daily Mass, she lived her faith through service. Her family describes her as someone who would carefully prepare herself each day before heading to church, eager to participate and contribute. Even today, despite the challenges that naturally come with age, her love for prayer and worship remains strong. Her family notes that while age may have affected certain abilities, her prayers and church hymns continue to ring out clearly and proudly.

Another remarkable part of Lucia's story is her connection to one of Guam's historic family businesses. Her family traces its roots to the pre-war "Home Bakery," established through the efforts of her parents and relatives, a venture that helped serve the community and would become part of Guam's broader business history. That entrepreneurial spirit, commitment to family, and dedication to community service have continued throughout the generations that followed.

Today, as we recognize Lucia McDonald on her 100th birthday, we celebrate far more than a centennial milestone. We celebrate a World War II survivor, devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, whose life has touched countless people across our island.

On behalf of the people of Guam and the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest congratulations to Lucia on reaching this extraordinary milestone. May her story continue to inspire future generations, and may she be blessed with continued health, happiness, and the love of family and friends.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. MATTHEW
OLDE'S RETIREMENT

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional Air Force leader for his outstanding service and upcoming retirement following more than 20 years of service to the United States. Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Olde is the F-15 Legacy and Advanced Eagle Acceptance Test Pilot and Director of Operations at Defense Contract Management Agency Fixed Wing St. Louis.

Lt. Col. Olde is an elite aviator whose role bridges the gap between manufacturer production and military combat readiness. He is responsible for rigorously testing and evaluating all newly built or upgraded F-15 aircraft before the United States Department of War officially accepts delivery and they enter active military service within the US or various international allies and foreign partners.

During his time of service, Lt. Col. Olde has accumulated over 2,300 hours in the jet to include 574 combat hours and has delivered all 46 of 46 of Boeing's F-15QA Aircraft. Additionally, he served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve with an additional year of deployment to King Khaled Air Base within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On the lighter side of his service, Lt. Col. Olde served as the director of the Wings Over Wayne Air Show at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in 2017 as well as coordinated and flew five F-15 flyovers during Military Appreciation Night at St. Louis Cardinals Stadium from 2022 through 2026.

Lt. Col. Olde reflects the highest standards of leadership and conduct and is a credit to the U.S. military. I wish Lt. Col. Olde, his wife, Sarah, and their children, Reagan, Patch, and Sybil only the best in his retirement.

HONORING AMERICA 250 AND THE
DAUGHTERS OF THE UNION VET-
ERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
BENCH DEDICATION IN WICHITA

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, the Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, Kansas Tent No. 6, dedicated a bench at the Dole VA Center in Wichita. I'm pleased today to recognize their efforts to honor the men and women who served our country and celebrate the United States' milestone on July 4 of this year.

In less than a month, our nation will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of

the Declaration of Independence. As we near this special occasion, it's fitting to remember that throughout our country's history, men and women have answered the call to serve—to defend the very liberties that our Founding Fathers enshrined on that document 250 years ago.

When the signers of the Declaration of Independence dipped their quill pens in ink and applied their signatures to parchment, they knew that it was not the ink that would bind our nation together for years to come, but the blood of patriots who would fight to gain independence from a foreign monarchy and who would continue to fight to maintain our freedoms for generations to come.

The blessings of liberty we share today are only possible because of the men and women who donned the uniform for the past 250 years. We can celebrate our semiquincentennial because of the countless soldiers, Marines, sailors, airmen, coast guardsmen and guardians who are the reason our country still stands today.

Kansas has long been at the forefront of defending the United States in the air, on land and at sea. We are proud to be home to notable heroes such as President Dwight Eisenhower, medal of Honor recipient Lieutenant Erwin Bleckley, and Senator Bob Dole, the namesake of the medical center that will be home to this new bench.

Kansas sends our best to serve, and for their sacrifices today and over the last 250 years, we are eternally grateful.

I want to thank the Kansans who have worked to establish a bench that honors our heroes and celebrates our Nation's 250th anniversary. This will not only serve as a great reminder of our Nation's history, but also encourage us to continue advancing the values we share as Americans, and to honor the men and women who make our 250 years possible.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING
MAJOR GENERAL DANIEL R.
MCDONOUGH

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize and honor the extraordinary service of Major General Daniel R. McDonough, whose distinguished career has had a lasting impact on Peoria, Illinois, and the United States of America.

General McDonough devoted nearly four decades to the United States Air Force and the Illinois Air National Guard, building a legacy of leadership, professionalism, and commitment to mission success. Commissioned through the Academy of Military Science in 1987, he served as a Command Pilot, Instructor, and Evaluator with more than 5,600 flight hours, including nearly 700 combat and combat support hours.

Throughout his career, General McDonough served in numerous operational and command roles, flying the OA-37 Dragonfly, F-16 Fighting Falcon, and C-130 Hercules. He deployed multiple times in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and commanded the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

Illinois is especially grateful for General McDonough's many years of service in Peoria, where he commanded the 169th Airlift Squadron, the 182nd Operations Group, and the 182nd Airlift Wing. Under his leadership, the Wing maintained strong mission readiness and remained a critical part of our Nation's airlift capabilities.

In 2022, General McDonough was selected as Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Commander of the Illinois Air National Guard, leading more than 3,000 Airmen across the state. His leadership helped guide important modernization efforts, including the 182nd Airlift Wing's transition to the C-130J Super Hercules.

On behalf of the people of Illinois and a grateful Nation, I thank Major General Daniel R. McDonough for his extraordinary service and wish him, his wife Cindy, and their family continued success and happiness in retirement. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his remarkable legacy of leadership and service.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPEN-
ING OF THE ORRVILLE PUBLIC
LIBRARY

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the City of Orrville and Dallas County community in celebrating the grand opening of the Orrville Public Library, which took place on Saturday, June 6, 2026 in Orrville, Alabama.

Public libraries are among our Nation's most invaluable institutions. They not only serve as gathering places where children can develop a love of reading, students can pursue academic achievement, and job seekers can gain critical skills, they also provide access to information and education that is essential for building strong communities and providing pathways to success. The grand opening of the Orrville Public Library represents a significant investment in the future of Orrville and Dallas County, creating a space where residents can access educational resources, technology, and community services.

This achievement stands as a testament to the determination and collaborative spirit of local leaders, advocates, educators, and community members whose vision and dedication helped bring this long-awaited project from concept to reality.

On a personal note, the grand opening of the Orrville Public Library holds special significance to me. As a child, books were my window to the wider world. Through them, I traveled to distant places, encountered novel ideas, and considered new possibilities that helped shape who I am today. I know that I got my love of reading from my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, who served as a librarian for the Selma City School System for 36 years. She understood the transformative power of reading, and she taught me that libraries are more than just buildings, they are centers of learning and opportunity. For that reason, I was honored to secure \$500,000 in the Fiscal Year 2023 federal budget for the construction of this new municipal public library. I was also proud to donate a collection of curated books