

Arthur. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Texas, followed by an MBA from the University of Southern California. A proud Texan, Mr. Hicks lived a life defined by service, leadership, and commitment to his community. He served his country as a paratrooper in the Army Reserves and later as a presidentially appointed Commissioner of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

Mr. Hicks won his professional career in banking with JPMorgan before returning to Texas, where he became a pioneer in private equity. In 1984, he co-founded Hicks & Haas and helped advance the leveraged buyout model through his "buy and build" strategy, most notably with the merger of Dr Pepper and 7UP. He later co-founded Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst and served as chairman until 2004. Under his leadership, the firm became one of the most influential private equity organizations in the world, raising more than \$12 billion and completing over \$50 billion in acquisitions. In recognition of his contributions to business, Mr. Hicks was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame in 2022.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Mr. Hicks purchased the Dallas Stars in 1996, leading the franchise to its 1999 Stanley Cup championship. He later acquired the Texas Rangers, who won consecutive American League West titles, and held ownership in Liverpool Football Club.

Mr. Hicks was deeply committed to the Dallas-Fort Worth region. He played a key role in the development of the American Airlines Center, contributed to the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge, and supported education initiatives across North Texas, including the land donation that became Thomas O. Hicks Elementary School. His dedication to the University of Texas included service on the Board of Regents and helping establish UTIMCO, now the largest public university endowment in the Nation.

I am honored to recognize Thomas O. Hicks for a life of service, leadership, and lasting impact on the State of Texas and our Nation.

HONORING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARROYO VISTA FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 45th Anniversary of Arroyo Vista Family Health Center located in Northeast Los Angeles.

In February of 1981, Arroyo Vista Family Health Center was established to ensure access to health services "for the community, by the community." Over the last 45 years, the non-profit community health center has become a trusted service provider, with a mobile clinic and four locations across Northeast Los Angeles. Every year, the center serves roughly 18,000 patients with a wide range of services such as family medicine, behavioral health, prenatal care, dental services, and pharmacy.

For more than four decades, Arroyo Vista Family Health Center has cemented its status

as a pillar for accessible, high-quality health care services for all. As our Northeast Los Angeles communities continue to grow and transform, Arroyo Vista Family Health Center remains committed to addressing the current and future health needs of residents through access to comprehensive health services. The impact of their efforts can be felt in every corner of Northeast Los Angeles, where residents no longer have to travel long distances for care and instead receive affordable, quality services from trusted providers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Arroyo Vista Family Health Center on their 45th Anniversary.

HONORING THE 41ST ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. YOUTH ORATORICAL

**HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 41st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest, hosted by the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

For more than four decades, the members of the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. have hosted this community event in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This year marks the 41st anniversary of this distinguished program, one of the oldest and largest celebrations of Dr. King's legacy in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

The event brings together students in grades six through twelve from Prince William County Public Schools and surrounding areas, offering them a unique opportunity to research, write, and deliver original orations honoring the life, leadership, and vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's speech topic: "Awakening the Dream: Breaking Barriers in the Fight for Justice and Unity," "is inspired by the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose calls for justice, unity, and an equitable future continue to resonate today."

I want to personally congratulate the following contestants in the 41st "Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Youth Oratorical Contest: Middle School Contestants: Brianna McGlawn—Manassas Park Middle School; Daniella Odom—Rippon Middle School; Jasraj Saini—Benton Middle School; Salima Lankford-Diallo—Manassas Park High School; Beulah Sarsah—C.D. Hylton High School; and Ryqah Shaikh—Gainesville High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for its unwavering commitment to uplifting our youth and preserving Dr. King's legacy.

I also congratulate these talented students for using their voices to advance the ideals of justice, unity, and equality. Let us learn from this next generation and consider how we may honor Dr. King's legacy by continuously seeking justice and leading with light in our own communities.

RECOGNIZING MARK JOHNSON

**HON. BETH VAN DUYN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Ms. VAN DUYN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Specialist Mark Alan Johnson, United States Army, of North Richland Hills, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Specialist Johnson served honorably in the United States Army from 1974 to 1976 with Company C, 122nd Signal Corps, 2nd Infantry Division, stationed at Camp Casey, South Korea. As a Radio, Teletype, and Morse Code Operator, he was recognized as one of the most skilled and dependable communications specialists in his unit. During the heightened alert that followed the 1976 "Korean Axe Murder Incident," he played a vital role in maintaining morale and operational readiness as U.S. forces prepared for potential escalation. His dedication and leadership earned him the rank of Specialist 4 and the respect of both peers and superiors. His military decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

Following his military service, Specialist Johnson dedicated four decades to civil service with the Federal Highway Administration, General Services Administration, and Federal Aviation Administration, where his work in information technology helped streamline processes, save taxpayer dollars, and support thousands of federal employees nationwide. Stationed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, he played a key role in the recovery and support efforts for coworkers who survived the 1995 Murrah Federal Building bombing, providing both technical and personal assistance in the aftermath of the tragedy.

Beyond his career, Specialist Johnson has remained deeply engaged in community service and charitable work. As a member of the Gold Wing Road Riders Association and the Iron Butt Association, he has helped raise funds for organizations including The Salvation Army, Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, and programs supporting children in foster care. His compassion and generosity extend back to his service in South Korea, where he volunteered at a local orphanage for deaf children.

Specialist Johnson's lifelong dedication to service across military, civil, and community spheres 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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICK GARCIA

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Rick Garcia—an LGBTQ+ rights leader, community organizer, and above all, a man who knew how to create

change for the betterment of LGBTQ+ people statewide.

Garcia advocated through decades long fights to pass city, county, and state-wide ordinances that banned discrimination against members of the LGBTQ+ community. His dedication to meaningful change has left a lasting impact throughout Illinois, and in the memories of all who were lucky enough to have worked with him throughout his career.

Garcia was the principal founder of Equality Illinois, the largest organizational voice for LGBTQ+ rights in Illinois. As executive director, he worked directly with Chicago, Cook County, and Illinois governments to codify marriage equality and fight against the worst forms of discrimination. He was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 1999.

Garcia knew how to unite communities for change, and how to bridge divides to ensure change was not only all-encompassing, but long-lasting. He was a member of the "Gang of Four," an activist group that played a critical role in the passing of Chicago's 1988 Human Rights Ordinance. Garcia was also an involved member of the Roman Catholic community on behalf of LGBTQ+ people of faith. He united Chicagoans from both major political parties in pursuit of justice and equality for all.

We remember and honor Rick Garcia as not only a dedicated activist, but a force for good in every community he touched. May his memory be a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Rick Garcia for his tireless commitment to equality in Chicago and honoring his legacy.

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#### HONORING MARY ALICE EDWARDS

### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate an incredible woman, Mary Alice Edwards, on her 90th birthday.

Mary Alice was born February 1, 1936, in Trenton, Tennessee, and moved to South Bend at just six months old. She grew up on Scott Street and later helped make history when her family became the first African American homeowners on the 1400 block of Washington Street. From the start, her life has been about courage, progress, and faith.

She attended Oliver Elementary and graduated from Central High School in 1954. That same year, she got married and began raising her greatest legacy: five children, three daughters and two sons. One of her sons went on to become a respected business leader in this community, which says a lot about the values Mary Alice poured into her family.

Mary Alice worked hard her whole life, from Essex Wire and Wells Electronics to more than 20 years at Curtis Products, retiring in 2016 at the age of 80. She also served as PTO secretary at Linden School, always making sure kids and families were supported.

Her faith has guided everything she's done. She joined Laken Chapel Primitive Baptist Church on December 31, 1964, during a night watch service, and went on to serve as assistant clerk, then clerk. For over 30 years, she has also served as clerk of the Big Creek

Primitive Baptist Association, faithfully serving churches across the region.

So today, Mr. Speaker, we don't just celebrate a birthday. We celebrate 90 years of faith, hard work, leadership, and love. Mary Alice's life has shaped her family, strengthened her church, and lifted this community. We thank God for her and pray for many more healthy, joyful years ahead.

Happy 90th birthday.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this month, our friend and partner, the Republic of Azerbaijan marks the 36th anniversary of "Black January."

This period symbolizes the beginning of the end of Soviet rule over Azerbaijan, an occupation that lasted for much of the 20th Century. This was a time of oppression and horror. But uncowed by the evil of communism, the people of Azerbaijan yearned for freedom.

On January 19, 1990, violence erupted in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku where Soviet troops killed over 100 Azeri demonstrators and wounded another 700. Undeterred, the people of Azerbaijan continued their peaceful protests until declaring independence from the U.S.S.R. on October 18, 1991.

Now, 36 years on from this tragedy, Azerbaijan can celebrate this as the first year of sustained peace since gaining its independence. With the assistance of the American President, the end of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict promises to be a turning point for the region.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the events of Black January in Azerbaijan and honoring those who lost their lives in pursuit of freedom. Further, please join me in thanking President Donald J. Trump for his work to secure peace and prosperity with our friend and partner. The United States continues to stand with the people of Azerbaijan and their right to live free.

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#### SUPPORTING H.R. 6719, THE COMBATING ONLINE PREDATORS ACT

### HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6719, the Combating Online Predators Act.

There are a number of teenagers and pre-teens who have lost their lives to suicide because of sextortion. We are fighting against criminal individuals and groups who seek out our children with no goal other than to cause turmoil. Sextortion is a dangerous and sick activity that has been increasingly used against children—so much so that the FBI has released warnings on the growing risk this poses to our kids, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has reported a nearly 200 percent increase in at-

tempts. As our social landscape continues to evolve, placing our most vulnerable population online more often, we must be prepared with the laws to deter and punish bad actors.

These perpetrators have taken AI-generated images of their victims or convinced the teens to send nude images of themselves and used them as leverage for outrageous demands. Some perpetrators will demand thousands of dollars—a request that is near impossible for the vast majority of teens.

Teenagers worry about so many things: what they are going to wear for homecoming, why their acne cannot seem to get under control, whether they should go to college or trade school. They should not be worried about someone catfishing them and using intimate images of them to either coerce money from them or push them to self-harm.

From Michigan, to Kentucky, to Ohio, and Georgia, these schemes range across the country. These sextortion operations are expanding, and we must do what we can to help law enforcement and prosecutors bring these evils to justice.

With this bill, we will provide prosecutors with additional tools to hold perpetrators accountable for schemes in which they seek to obtain explicit photos and videos of minors.

Our teenagers are in need of protection regardless of their independence and maturity. I am proud to support this legislation to ensure our teenagers can spend this pivotal moment in their lives focusing on things that will positively shape them into adulthood. They should have the chance to enjoy their teenage years without threat or malice.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6719, the Combating Online Predators Act.

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#### RECOGNIZING MATTHEW MYERS

### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Specialist Matthew Myers, United States Army, 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.

Specialist Myers served honorably in the United States Army from 1979 to 1982 as a combat medic with the 1st Ranger Battalion, U.S. Army Airborne. Throughout his service, he exemplified the highest standards of courage, readiness, and compassion providing emergency care under demanding conditions while supporting the elite soldiers of the Ranger Regiment. His military decorations include the Parachutist Badge, Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Expert Rifle Badge, and Medical Field Expert Badge, recognizing his professionalism and technical skill as both a soldier and a medic.

Following his military service, Specialist Myers built a distinguished career in education, leadership, and philanthropy, continuing his lifelong commitment to service. As Dean of the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University from 2017 to 2025,