

HONORING THE SERVICE OF KATIE BLOUNT TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service of Katie Blount, who dedicated more than thirty years to the State of Mississippi at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), serving as the seventh director of the agency since 2015. As only the second woman to lead the department since its founding in 1902, Katie had a steadfast commitment to “honest storytelling” and understanding the complexities of Mississippi’s storied history.

Under Katie’s leadership, the department has broadened access to its collections, expanded the stories it tells, and strengthened its commitment to preserving and interpreting the full and complex history of the state, ensuring that all Mississippians are represented.

Katie was instrumental in the creation and opening of the Two Mississippi Museums, which has welcomed more than 800,000 visitors and established Mississippi as a national leader in public history. She also guided the department in providing support to the Commission to Redesign the Mississippi State Flag, helping ensure the Commission carried out its work with transparency and effectiveness.

She has positioned the department for continued success in developing new sites that tell Mississippi’s stories, including the Vicksburg Civil War Visitor Center, the Natchez Tribal History Center, and Margaret Ann Crigler Park, while also strengthening the protection of historic places across our state.

I am thankful for Katie’s dedication and many years of service to Mississippi. Her work will live on through future generations and continue to inspire other historians to keep Mississippi’s unique story alive. I am thankful for the opportunity to recognize Katie’s service and commitment to the people of Mississippi and to our state’s history.

HONORING THE LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION’S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Long Island Association as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

For the past century, the Long Island Association has been a driving force for economic growth across Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

They have brought together community leaders across all sectors to advocate for the investments and policies that help Long Island succeed.

Whether it is improving infrastructure, supporting small businesses, strengthening our Workforce, expanding housing opportunities, or bolstering our healthcare and education systems, the Long Island Association has been a trusted partner in building a stronger future for our region.

Reaching 100 years is an extraordinary achievement, and it speaks to the organization’s lasting commitment to the people and businesses that call Long Island home.

I congratulate the Long Island Association, and I look forward to seeing all they accomplish in the years ahead.

HONORING MRS. FANNETT CLARK LYONS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincerest congratulations, and birthday wishes to Mrs. Fannett Clark Lyons, an outstanding citizen, wife, mother and friend who celebrated her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Clark Lyons has lived an exemplary life of service to her family, her church and her community.

Mrs. Clark Lyons was born in the Miami’s Overtown neighborhood, on September 14, 1913. She was the oldest of six children, and after losing her father at a young age, she helped raise her siblings. Mrs. Clark Lyons is the mother of four: Leonard, Rosemary, Franklin, and Marvin (deceased). She has sixteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ms. Clark Lyons has been an active member of Mt. Hermon A.M.E. Church for over fifty years. She enjoys cheering for the Miami Dolphins and the Miami Heat; her favorite sports teams. She also enjoys cooking Bahamian food, and her specialty is pigeon peas and rice.

Please join me in honoring Mrs. Fannett Clark Lyons on this remarkable milestone, her 100th birthday.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REPRESENTATIVE TIM MURPHY

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of the Honorable TIM MURPHY, who passed away on July 18, 2026, at the age of 73. Congressman MURPHY dedicated his life to serving our Nation and commonwealth as a child psychologist, State Senator, U.S. Representative, and Commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves. His leadership and compassion left a lasting impact not only on me, but on our region and our country.

Before his service in government, Congressman MURPHY earned his Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh, Master of Arts from Cleveland State University, and Bachelor of Arts from Wheeling Jesuit University. He also served on the staff of Pittsburgh Children’s and Mercy Hospitals and founded his own private practice.

Congressman MURPHY represented the people of Pennsylvania for over twenty years, first representing Allegheny and Washington Counties in the Pennsylvania State Senate. In 2002, he was elected to represent Pennsylvania’s 18th Congressional District, which included Allegheny, Greene, Washington, and

Westmoreland Counties. In addition to serving his constituents in Pennsylvania, he volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps, where he rose to the rank of Commander.

He was a tireless advocate for his constituents, dedicating his career to fighting for veterans and seniors while working to fix our Nation’s broken mental health care system. Congressman MURPHY led the effort to save the local 911th Airlift Wing, preserving hundreds of jobs and a critical asset to our national defense. Through his strong commitment to constituent services, tens of thousands of individuals were able to secure Social Security, veterans, and other federal benefits.

A renowned child psychologist, Congressman MURPHY also authored the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016, expanding access to care for families and individuals facing mental health challenges. This legislation was ultimately enacted as part of the 21st Century Cures Act. He further advanced the conversation around mental health through his writing, including *The Christ Cure: Ten Biblical Ways to Heal from Trauma, Tragedy, and PTSD*; *The Angry Child: Regaining Control When Your Child is Out of Control*; and *Overcoming Passive Aggression: How to Stop Hidden Anger from Spoiling Your Relationships, Career, and Happiness*.

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable TIM MURPHY was a trusted mentor and friend to me for many years, and I hope that he rests peacefully. His dedication to advocating for those in need was unending. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Nan, his daughter, Bevin, his grandchildren, and all his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time.

CONGRATULATING GROWMARK’S CHUCK SPENCER ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Chuck Spencer on the occasion of his retirement following more than 40 years of distinguished service to Illinois agriculture through the Illinois Farm Bureau and the GROWMARK Cooperative System.

During his tenure with the Illinois Farm Bureau, Chuck served as Associate Director of State Legislation, where he contributed to the successful passage of the Illinois Livestock Management Facilities Act. He later served as Director of National Legislation and Policy Development, where he led negotiations supporting passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the implementation of the Renewable Fuel Standard.

At GROWMARK, Chuck continued his tireless advocacy on behalf of agricultural cooperatives and farmer-owners. He worked with a team that successfully made Section 199A of the federal tax code permanent, protecting the ability of cooperatives to return patronage benefits to farmer-owners without facing an unfair tax increase.

Chuck also served on the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Government Affairs Committee, including as its chairman. Additionally, he contributed to legislative committees for the American Seed Trade Association,

CropLife America, the Agricultural Retailers Association, The Fertilizer Institute, Fertilizer Canada, and the Ontario Agri Business Association.

Chuck's leadership, policy expertise, and commitment to agriculture have made a lasting impact on farmers, cooperatives, and rural communities throughout Illinois and across the country. I congratulate Chuck on his well-earned retirement and wish him and his family all the best in the years ahead.

HONORING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO BILLY ELLINGSON

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a remarkable hero from Houston County, Tennessee, who answered the call of duty during a critical chapter in our Nation's history. As the years pass, the profound debt we owe to our Korean War veterans only grows.

Of the 6.8 million Americans who served during the Korean War era, fewer than 300,000 remain with us today. This generation, now largely in their nineties, represents a rapidly dwindling connection to a pivotal struggle for global freedom. It is our sacred obligation to ensure their stories are told and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary service, sacrifice, and lifelong dedication of Billy Ellingson. He represents the very best of Tennessee's Volunteer Spirit and the enduring resilience of the American servicemember.

Mr. Billy Ellingson served with pride in the United States Navy from 1954 to 1962, including four years of dedicated active duty during the Korean War era. Beyond his years in uniform, Mr. Ellingson has spent a lifetime giving back to his fellow veterans and his local community. For more than twenty years, he faithfully served as a member of the American Legion Honor Guard, ensuring that fallen comrades received the final, dignified honors they so richly deserved. As he approaches his 90th birthday this July, Mr. Ellingson continues to support and uplift the Houston County community, embodying a lifetime of selfless service.

Please join me in offering our deepest gratitude for his faithful service and proudly preserve their legacies in the United States Congress.

COMMENDING THE HAITIAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize the grand reopening of the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives in North Miami, Florida and include in the RECORD a proclamation on commending the efforts of Haitian American Historical Society (HAHS):

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives—through artifact, paintings, photography and performances—tells the story of Haiti's history and rich culture;

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives documents and showcases the contributions of Haitians and Haitian descendants to South Florida, the United States and other parts of the world;

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives serve to educate future generations of Haitian Americans about their heritage and build a connection to Haiti;

Whereas, the Haitian Historical Museum and Archives serve to foster understanding, tolerance and cooperation between South Florida's diverse communities; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 25th Congressional District of Florida, commend the Haitian American Historical Society for preserving Haitian history and fostering a resurgence of interest in Haitian culture among South Floridians.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christian Brothers High School as it celebrates 150 years of distinguished service and education in the Sacramento region.

Since its founding in 1876, Christian Brothers High School has served as one of Sacramento's most respected institutions, dedicated to the Lasallian tradition of faith, community, and service. For a century and a half, Christian Brothers has remained committed to providing a rigorous academic foundation while fostering integrity, leadership, and compassion in its students. From its original home downtown to its current campus in Oak Park, the school has continually adapted to the needs of its neighbors while preserving its core mission: "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve."

Over the course of its 150-year history, Christian Brothers has expanded its academic programs, strengthened its commitment to inclusive education, and earned numerous national honors. The school's faculty has consistently upheld the values of St. John Baptist De La Salle, encouraging students to pursue curiosity, service, and personal growth. Its celebrated arts programs, competitive athletics, and wide variety of student-led clubs and initiatives reflect a campus culture rich in leadership and fellowship.

This milestone is a testament to the thousands of lives affected by Lasallian education, the wisdom and insight of its educators, and the core principles instilled across generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Christian Brothers High School's 150 years of education and service to the Sacramento community.

HONORING CAPTAIN THERESA BOWIE

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Captain Theresa Bowie on the auspicious occasion of her retirement after nearly 25 years of service to our Nation in the U.S. Air Force and Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Captain Bowie first enlisted in the USAF in 2002; after completing Basic Training and Technical School, she was assigned to Beale Air Force Base, where she became an electrical/environmental specialist working on the U2-S "Dragon Lady" reconnaissance plane. During her six years of active component service, she completed deployments in 2005 and 2007, supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

In 2008, Captain Bowie left active the active Air Force and joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's 193rd Special Operations Wing, where she served as an EC-130 Aircraft Electrician, and deployed two more times in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and Freedom Sentinel.

Captain Bowie transferred to the 201st RED HORSE Squadron in 2018, wherein she completed the requirements to commission as an Engineering Officer. Her knowledge and expertise were vital during two more deployments during the Global War on Terror, as well as during a humanitarian mission in Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to recognize Captain Theresa Bowie on her retirement upon nearly 25 years of outstanding and selfless service to our Nation. Her tireless service and dedication to her fellow Airmen, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the United States of America set the standard by which all should be judged.

HONORING COLONEL EUGENE K. "GENE" CONTI AND COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR FRANK ROSSI

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor two distinguished veterans and residents of Houston County, Tennessee, whose combined lifetimes of service embody the very best of our Nation's Armed Forces: Colonel Eugene K. "Gene" Conti, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired, and Command Sergeant Major Frank Rossi, U.S. Army, Retired.

Colonel Eugene K. "Gene" Conti began a distinguished 26-year career in the United States Marine Corps after earning his commission through the Platoon Leaders Class in 1977. After receiving his wings as a Naval Aviator in September 1979, he flew CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. He served on numerous operational deployments, including multiple Mediterranean tours and a critical NATO support mission. Colonel Conti later trained the next generation of Marine aviators as an instructor with Marine