Please join me in honoring Mr. Anthony C. Brooks for his commitment to education and our children and for his dedication to our community.

HONORING DAVIS FARMERS MARKET

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the Davis Farmers Market, a leader in local agriculture, sustainability, and community engagement, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The Davis Farmers Market was founded in 1976 by University of California graduates Ann Evans, Martin Barnes, Annie Main, and Henry Esbenshade. While the farmers market began with a small group of vendors in Davis's Central Park, it quickly became a pioneer in California's direct-to-consumer agriculture industry, becoming the first Certified Farmers Market in the state in 1977. In 1994, the opening of the permanent Farmers Market Pavillion made the Davis Farmers Market the first structure of its kind in California.

Since its early years, the Davis Farmers Market has become a vibrant gathering place and essential Davis institution, connecting farmers and consumers while improving access to fresh, locally grown food. The Market launched community-centered programs such as a live music series, farm-to-school initiatives, hospital-based farmers markets, and the University of California Davis campus market.

The Davis Farmers Market has significantly contributed to the economic viability of small and regional farms, providing direct marketing opportunities and promoting sustainable agricultural practices and food education. It attracts over 500,000 visitors annually across its weekly markets, serving as a major economic and social hub for the region and supporting hundreds of farmers and vendors from numerous California counties.

The Davis Farmers Market is widely recognized as a national leader in the farmers market movement. In recognition of its community significance, the Davis Farmers Market was named ''America's Favorite Farmer's Market'' by the American Farmland Trust in 2009 and has received numerous other local and regional accolades for its variety and leadership.

The Davis Farmers Market's longevity and service as a model of community-centered food systems are celebrated today on its 50th anniversary. Today, the market celebrates with garden focused activities for children, live music, raffles, and photo booths along with the Saturday Farmers Market and the publication of a commemorative cookbook earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Davis Farmers Market for its five decades of dedication to supporting local food producers, environmental stewardship, education, and community connection. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

CELEBRATING PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Prairie View A&M University as it celebrates its 150th anniversary. Since its founding, this university has served countless individuals, bringing its historic legacy, academic excellence and enduring service to the nation.

Prairie View A&M University's rich history begins in 1876 when the Texas Constitution created an agricultural and mechanical college that would then turn into Texas's oldest public HBCU. In spring 1878, the university would welcome its first eight students. Originally designed to be a teaching college, the university expanded its curriculum to include agriculture, nursing, arts, sciences, and mechanical arts by 1887. Furthermore, as the university continued to grow and succeed, it became a landgrant institution by 1890, offered baccalaureate degrees in 1919, and finally added graduate studies in various academic fields by 1937, as a testimony to its achievements.

The university's longstanding history of supporting the higher education of Black students has played a transformative role in fostering academic excellence, civic engagement, and postgraduate employment for historically underrepresented communities. This institution has time and time again demonstrated its commitment to teaching and service, strengthening communities and improving lives throughout the state of Texas and beyond.

With President Dr. Tomikia P. LeGrande leading the university forward with its ''Journey to Eminence'' plan, the university plans to further establish itself as a premier HBCU and blueprint for other universities across the country. As a Carnegie-classified high-research (R2) university, it has further cemented itself as a distinguished research institute and is home to the National Center for Infrastructure Technology and the Texas Juvenile Crime Prevention Center.

As a member of the NCAA Division I Southwestern Athletic Conference, students can compete in a high-sports level environment which in turn, can enable future athletic careers. With more than 170 student-led organizations, students have a wide range of interests and topics to engage with in addition to the academic opportunities available.

Since its inception, this university has not only developed a reputable history in the state of Texas but in the country as a whole. With generations upon generations of educated graduates, Prairie View A&M University has helped bring educators, engineers, military leaders, elected officials, scientists and public servants at all levels of government into the world. Notably, this institution leads in graduating Black students with degrees in architecture and engineering and is highly ranked for increasing the number of Black nursing graduates in Texas through its clinical training. The access to quality education is key to a thriving community and this institution delivers this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Prairie View A&M University's 150th anniversary. This is an accomplishment deserving of recognition in our Nation's Capital, and I am honored to extend my congratulations as the university celebrates this milestone. I anticipate many more monumental anniversaries, for I know this university will continue to be a fountain of knowledge and joy for our community, continuing its outstanding contributions to higher education for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST LARISA DICKERSON (RETIRED) ON RECEIVING THE PURPLE HEART

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary American patriot, Specialist Larisa Dickerson (Ret.), whose courage, resilience, and unwavering devotion to our Nation embody the very best of the United States Army and the American spirit. Born in Chicago, Illinois, and raised in Tampa, Florida, Larisa answered our Nation's call to service immediately after graduating from high school. At just nineteen years old, she enlisted in the United States Army in 2002 and completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, before being assigned to the 410th Military Police Company of the 89th Military Police Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas. In April 2004, Specialist Dickerson deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. During that deployment, she and her fellow Military Police Soldiers carded out some of the most demanding and dangerous missions of the war. They protected U.S. government dignitaries, secured vital supply convoys, established checkpoints to safeguard Coalition Forces, and trained Iraqi police officers, helping to lay the foundation for stability and security in a volatile region. Their professionalism and determination contributed to hundreds of successful missions under extraordinarily difficult conditions.

Specialist Dickerson also made history while deployed. She became the first female service member in the United States Armed Forces to train on the Common Remotely Operated Weapon System (CROWS), an innovative weapons platform that allowed operators to engage threats from within the protection of an armored vehicle. Her willingness to embrace new technology and break barriers demonstrated not only exceptional skill but also remarkable leadership and courage, paving the way for countless women who would follow in her footsteps. On November 7, 2004, while returning to Forward Operating Base Falcon in southern Baghdad, Specialist Dickerson's convoy was struck by a devastating roadside bomb. She suffered severe injuries as a result of enemy action and was evacuated first to the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad's Green Zone before being transferred to Germany for advanced medical treatment. Just four days later, on November 11—Veterans Day—she spent her twenty-first birthday recovering in a military hospital, surrounded by the sacrifices that define the true cost of freedom. For the wounds she sustained in combat, she was awarded the Purple Heart, one of our Nation's most revered military decorations.

Although her injuries forever changed the course of her life, they never diminished her spirit. Instead, they strengthened her resolve to continue serving others. Larisa often reflects that her military service taught her to appreciate life's simplest blessings and to never be ashamed of the scars she carries, because they are lasting reminders that she was stronger than the adversity she faced. Those words speak not only to her own journey but also to the resilience demonstrated by so many of our wounded warriors. Following her military service, Specialist Dickerson continued her commitment to public service by pursuing higher education, earning an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. Today, she serves the citizens of Hillsborough County as a Senior Accounting Manager with the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's Office, where she continues to exemplify integrity, professionalism, and dedication to her community. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Larisa's greatest pride is her family. She is the devoted mother of two sons, David Jr. and Daniel, and has instilled in them the same values of courage, perseverance, and love of country that guided her own life. Mr. Speaker, the Purple Heart is far more than a medal, it is a solemn symbol of sacrifice, valor, and unwavering devotion to duty. Specialist Larisa Dickerson's service reminds us that the freedoms we enjoy every day have been secured by brave Americans willing to place themselves in harm's way for a cause greater than themselves.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize Specialist Larisa Dickerson (Ret.) for her extraordinary service, her historic contributions to our Armed Forces, and her continued dedication to her community. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank her for her sacrifice, honor her remarkable legacy, and offer my deepest gratitude for all she has done—and continues to do—in service to others.

COMMENDING RETIRING MIAMI-DADE COUNTY POLICE SERGEANT THOMAS PHILIP HIXON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize Miami-Dade Police Sergeant Thomas Philip Hixon who is retiring after 25 years of outstanding service to our community and to young men, as a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Sergeant Hixon, a highly skilled and well-respected law enforcement officer, rose from the ranks of police officer to investigator and to supervisor over his 25-year career;

Whereas, Sergeant Hixon was assigned to the Homicide Bureau, Robbery Bureau, the Public Housing and Urban Development Unit, as well as the Carol City and Intracoastal District, where he investigated thousands of criminal cases that led to the successful prosecution of scores of defendants;

Whereas, Sergeant Hixon has received more than 80 letters of commendation, was the recipient of the 2004 United States Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, and has received numerous other accolades, including the Employee Excellence Award and Officer of the Month Award;

Whereas, Sergeant Hixon has worked to make Miami-Dade County safer for residents and visitors, and has helped to improve the lives of the less fortunate;

Whereas, Sergeant Hixon is a dedicated mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, working to improve the odds for at-risk young; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend retiring Miami-Dade County Police Sergeant Thomas Philip Hixon for his dedication, commitment and untiring service to our community.

RECOGNIZING RECARDINA ''DINA'' BOCCIPPIO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Recardina Boccippio, also known as Dina, as she celebrates her 100th birthday this year. It is my pleasure to join Dina's family and friends in honoring the wonderful life she has led.

On September 16, 1925, Recardina DePalma was born to Dominick and Michelina DePalma in Port Reading, New Jersey where Dina resided for 21 years. On October 27, 1946, she married the love of her life Angelo Boccippio and in 1953, they purchased their forever home in Woodbridge, New Jersey. Her loved ones refer to her as a pleasure to be around and a true inspiration.

For 10 years, Dina worked at Flagstaff Foods and Liquors. For the next 35 years, Dina worked as a private secretary and head bookkeeper for the Mauro Family at Mauro Motors. Now retired, it is clear she is living her best life as she is happiest spending time with family and friends. In her free time, Dina enjoys watching game shows and soap operas and is always ready for her next hair and nail appointments. After many incredible years, Dina Boccippio's contagious positivity and kindness is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in wishing Dina Boccippio another year of good health and happiness as she celebrates the milestone of her 100th Birthday.

HONORING COLONEL GARY D. DENNETT (RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Colonel Gary D. Dennett (Ret.) has devoted his life to service to this country, through thirty-one years in uniform and thirty-one concurrent years with the Department of Defense, and through his continued commitment to our veterans and the Central Texas community. It is my privilege to honor him with a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

Colonel Dennett began his military career in 1958 and served in the United States Army, the Kansas National Guard, and the Army Reserves until his retirement in 1989. During his career he served in Germany, and after Ranger School deployed to Vietnam as an advisor to the Army Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). After attending OCS and receiving his commission as an officer in the Army National Guard, he continued his distinguished service in the Army Reserves where he held various command positions at every level. During his military career he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star for Valor, Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Superior Unit Commendation, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal, along with numerous campaign and service ribbons.

After retiring from the Army Reserves, Colonel Dennett continued to dedicate himself to honoring veterans and service the community. He is a longstanding member of the Williamson County Veterans Memorial Advisory Group, which established and continues to maintain and conduct ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial Plaza in Georgetown, Texas. He remains active as a life member in organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), and Military Order of World Wars (MOWW), serving in various officer positions at the state and local level.

Colonel Dennett has been a leader, mentor, and steadfast advocate for veterans and their families. His service and efforts have ensured that the sacrifices of our Nation's service members are honored and remembered with dignity and respect.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Gary D. Dennett for his faithful service to our Nation and his lifelong dedication to others.

HONORING BILL ANNO

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 3, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Master Sergeant Bill Anno for a lifetime of extraordinary public service, patriotism, and unwavering dedication to the citizens of Nassau County and the United States of America.

For those of us who serve Northeast Florida, Bill is a familiar and reassuring presence. For years, as a court security officer at the historic Nassau County Courthouse, Bill was the very first face to greet members of the public and elected officials alike. Stretching back to my time in the Florida State Senate, whenever I held constituent meetings at the historic courthouse, I knew we were in safe hands with Bill guarding the door. His quiet vigilance, warmth, and professionalism set the standard for public safety.

Bill's distinguished career in uniform began in 1978 when he enlisted in the United States Air Force. Over 24 years of honorable active-duty service, Bill rose to the rank of Master Sergeant, E–7, serving as a Law Enforcement