

Oceanography and Engineering before beginning a distinguished career with ExxonMobil. As a Project Manager, he played a key role in overseeing the design and construction of offshore platforms, earning the respect of his colleagues through his expertise, leadership, and dedication. After retiring in 2006, Mark and his beloved wife, Rosa, made Santa Fe their home, where he continued to be an active and valued member of his community.

Throughout his life, Mark embraced every opportunity to learn, compete, and connect with others. A talented athlete, he captained New York University's swim team and enjoyed a lifelong passion for sports, including tennis, fly fishing, and golf. His love of golf led him to serve as Chairman of the Golf Committee, where his commitment and enthusiasm left a lasting impression and the game became a cherished bond he shared with his sons, David and Glenn, and his grandson, Jack.

A proud Brooklyn native, Mark shared 58 beautiful years of marriage with Rosa, his childhood sweetheart. Together, they built a life filled with love, adventure, and cherished memories while living abroad and exploring the world. Above all, Mark's greatest joy was his family, and he was a devoted father and proud grandfather of six.

Mark's legacy of excellence, generosity, and love will continue to inspire all who knew him. It is my honor to recognize his remarkable life and extend my deepest condolences to Rosa, his family, and all who mourn his passing.

HONORING ABBY LAPOLE

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Abby LaPole of Massillon as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week for July 27th after being awarded Stark County Girls Athlete of the Year.

Abby earned this honor following a historic career at Jackson High School. At this year's Ohio High School Athletic Association's Track and Field Championships, Abby captured her third consecutive state title in girls' seated shot put with a final-attempt throw of 21 feet, 7.5 inches. She leaves high school as a three-time state champion and the all-time Stark County record holder in the event, with her top throw of 23 feet, 5.75 inches this season cementing her place among the best athletes in Stark County history.

A dedicated student-athlete, Abby has spent years putting in the work to excel in competition while representing Jackson, Massillon, Stark County, and Ohio's 13th Congressional District with pride. Through her achievements, Abby has shown the strength of adaptive athletics and the opportunities available to athletes who pursue their goals at the highest levels of competition.

She embodies why our district is proudly known as the "Birthplace of Champions."

I congratulate Abby on this well-deserved recognition and celebrate all she has accomplished.

HONORING MARCUS BOWERS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Marcus Bowers. For more than 45 years, Marcus Bowers has been dedicated to serving his community through sharing small town stories, breaking news, and everyday happenings across Rankin County. Alongside his family, he became owner of the Rankin County News on October 6, 1980, serving as publisher, editor, and advertising manager while leading one of Mississippi's most respected community newspapers.

The Rankin County News holds a unique place in Mississippi history as the oldest continuously published newspaper in the state. During the Civil War, when newsprint became scarce, the newspaper continued publishing by printing editions on the back of wallpaper—an enduring symbol of its commitment to keeping citizens informed. In its early years, the paper's circulation extended from Meridian to Vicksburg, serving readers across a large portion of central Mississippi.

Under Marcus's leadership, the newspaper embraced a simple philosophy: "Report the news, don't make the news." For more than 45 years, the Rankin County News has documented the history, achievements, challenges, and growth of Rankin County while preserving the stories that define its communities. As Marcus wrote upon announcing the sale of the newspaper, "A newspaper is a protector for the public." Mucus has also been deeply involved in civic service. He served as President of the Mississippi Press Association, representing newspapers across the state, and has dedicated countless hours to community organizations and public service, including serving 17 years as a Certified Reserve Police Officer with the Brandon Police Department.

Marcus Bowers has spent a lifetime preserving the history of Rankin County while helping to shape its future. I am thankful for the opportunity to honor his service to Rankin County.

RECOGNIZING BRIGGS & STRATTON AND THE WORKERS OF POPLAR BLUFF

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly extraordinary achievement by one of Missouri's most dedicated employers—Briggs & Stratton—and to recognize the men and women of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, whose skill, dedication, and hard work have made this moment possible.

This past June, the Briggs & Stratton facility in Poplar Bluff achieved a milestone that few manufacturers in American history can claim: the production of its 100 millionth engine. These are the very engines that power lawnmowers and outdoor equipment that families and workers across our nation rely on every single day.

Briggs & Stratton is a pillar of the Poplar Bluff community. For nearly four decades, through economic cycles, industry disruptions, and moments of national uncertainty, Briggs & Stratton chose to stay in Poplar Bluff to invest in this community, to employ its residents, and to build something lasting here in the heart of Missouri.

The workers of this facility are the true authors of this milestone, with many of them giving decades of their lives to this plant. Look no further than brothers Jerry and Billy Young, who have both dedicated over 30 years of service to this facility. They, alongside so many others who have followed in the footsteps of a parent or relative on these same lines, are the definition of the American worker: skilled, loyal, and proud. The economic impact of this facility on Poplar Bluff and Butler County has been profound. For 37 years, Briggs & Stratton has provided family-sustaining wages, supported local suppliers and businesses, contributed to the tax base that funds schools and infrastructure, and invested in the community that has been its home. This is what a company that believes in the American worker and the American community looks like.

American manufacturing is alive, strong, and flourishing in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Briggs & Stratton, its leadership, and above all the dedicated workforce of the Poplar Bluff facility on this remarkable achievement.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM "WALLACE" VERNON

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 10, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of William "Wallace" Vernon, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, businessman, and community leader whose life exemplified faith, integrity, and selfless service.

Born in Snyder, Texas, Wallace developed the values of hard work, humility, and leadership that guided him throughout his life. After earning his degree from Texas Tech University, he became a Certified Public Accountant and built a distinguished career with Lott, Vernon & Company, retiring as a respected partner in 2006. Even in retirement, he remained active as a business owner, investor, and mentor.

Wallace's greatest passion was serving others. A faithful member of First Baptist Church of Killeen, he devoted decades of leadership to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Texas, helping expand opportunities for thousands of young people. In recognition of his extraordinary commitment, he received the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Champion of Youth Award in 2011. His service also extended to numerous civic organizations, medical mission trips, and disaster relief efforts, reflecting his lifelong dedication to strengthening his community.

Together with his beloved wife of 62 years, Emmadell, Wallace built a home rooted in faith, generosity, and service. He treasured his family and found great joy in encouraging his children and grandchildren, always leading by

example. Wallace is survived by his son, William Vernon, Jr.; his daughters, Katherine Barksdale and Patricia Cummins; eight beloved grandchildren; his sister, Kathi Crump;

his brother, Kenneth Vernon; and many extended family members and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Wallace Vernon's legacy lives on through the family he loved, the community he served, and the countless lives he touched

with his faith and leadership. It is my honor to recognize his remarkable life and extend my deepest condolences to his family and loved ones.