

I am proud to recognize this milestone and wish these firefighters a long and honorable career of service to the Plumstead community.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists (AAEES) for its leadership in advancing environmental engineering and science across our country.

The AAEES is the premier professional organization dedicated to recognizing excellence in environmental engineering and science while promoting the highest standards of ethics, innovation, and public service. The AAEES's commitment to advancing technical expertise in this field has strengthened the professions that safeguard our Nation's public health, natural resources, and environmental quality.

Environmental engineers and scientists play a vital role in addressing many of the most pressing challenges facing our Nation. Their work supports the protection of drinking water supplies, improves air quality, advances sustainable infrastructure, remediates contaminated land and water, strengthens community resilience, and develops innovative solutions to emerging environmental challenges. Their expertise helps ensure that communities across the United States have access to safe water, healthy ecosystems, and infrastructure that supports economic growth while protecting the environment.

As our Nation continues to invest in resilient infrastructure, clean water systems, environmental stewardship, and technological innovation, the contributions of environmental engineers and scientists have never been more important.

Today, I commend the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists for its enduring contributions to the engineering and scientific professions and for its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and service. I extend my sincere appreciation for the Academy for their dedication to advancing the environmental professions and improving the quality of life for all Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists for its remarkable achievements and in wishing the Academy continued success in fulfilling its important mission to promote continual improvement in environmental engineering and science education and practice.

RECOGNIZING THE COSUMNES
RIVER COLLEGE ATHLETICS DE-
PARTMENT'S 55TH YEARS OF
SERVICE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Cosumnes River College (CRC) Athletics Department as it celebrates 55 years of athletic excellence.

File CRC Athletic Program has become a model of academic and athletic achievement in the Sacramento region and across California's community college system.

Competing in one of the most demanding conferences in the state, CRC student-athletes have distinguished themselves not only through their performance in competition, but through their leadership, character, and service to the campus and community they represent.

The 2025–26 academic year stands among the most successful in the departments history. Eight of CRC's ten athletic programs earned postseason berths, and the softball program advanced to the 2026 3C2A State Championship. The CRC Athletics Department earned twenty-five All-Conference selections and three All-American honors. The achievements on the field were matched in the classroom, where the department posted a cumulative 3.401 grade-point average: the highest in CRC Athletics history. One hundred and eight student athletes earned the Scholar-Athlete recognition, including thirty-six who achieved a perfect 4.0 grade-point average overall.

Under the leadership of Athletic Director Collin Pregliasco, CRC Athletics has built a culture in which academic excellence and top-notch-on-the-field performance go hand in hand. Early mornings, long bus rides and countless hours of training have shaped CRC student athletes to embody the discipline, accountability, and perseverance that define Hawks tradition and generational success.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cosumnes River College Athletics Department on fifty-five years of excellence. We celebrate the student-athletes, coaches and staff whose dedication continues to build a legacy of triumph, leadership, and opportunity for generations to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
JOE NEVES

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague Representative DAVID G. VALADAO, to honor Joe Neves as he retires from the Kings County Board of Supervisors after an honorable 32 years of service. As the longest-serving seated board member in California history, Mr. Neves has shown a long-standing commitment to service in our community.

If there is one defining characteristic of Mr. Neves' tenure, it is this: true leadership is root-

ed in common sense, a deep connection to the community, and an unwavering commitment to putting hardworking families first.

Throughout his time on the Board, Mr. Neves played a pivotal role in advancing energy projects that created new sources of revenue for local landowners and schools while helping power regional operations. He was also a major force behind the development of solar energy zones on fallowed, water deprived farmland, repurposing unused land into productive assets that support both the local economy and California's energy future.

Long hailed as a community champion, Mr. Neves has dedicated himself to finding middle ground, consistently working to keep administrative operations running smoothly. This dedication is evident in the work that the Kings County Board of Supervisors has accomplished during Mr. Neves' three decades as board member. This includes boosting state and federal investment into the County's community and educational hubs, such as a \$13 million investment in the Hanford and Lemoore public library branches.

His commitment to agriculture and public service has also earned him numerous honors throughout his career. Last year, Mr. Neves was recognized as Ag Supporter of the Year for his steadfast advocacy on behalf of the Kings County agricultural community. He has also been named Lemoore Citizen of the Year and received the Tachi Tribe Award, reflecting the deep personal relationships and broad respect he has earned across the county.

Mr. Speaker, please join Representative VALADAO and me in congratulating Joe Neves on 32 years of dedicated service on the Kings County Board of Supervisors and wishing him a happy and healthy retirement. Thank you.

HONORING CHIEF MARK SCHMIDT

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Mark Schmidt and recognize an extraordinary career spanning more than 40 years in law enforcement, including nearly three decades as Chief of Police of the Upper Makefield Police Department.

Since becoming Chief in 1997, Chief Schmidt has transformed and strengthened the department through his vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to excellence. Under his leadership, the department doubled in size, growing from 9 to 18 officers, constructed state-of-the-art headquarters, and continually modernized its operations through advanced technology, equipment, and training.

Among Chief Schmidt's proudest accomplishments was leading the department to PLEAC accreditation in 2020. This prestigious designation reflects the department's commitment to the highest standards of professionalism, accountability, and excellence in law enforcement. The department has proudly maintained that accreditation ever since.

Chief Schmidt has also been a steadfast advocate for the professional development of his officers. He has encouraged advanced training and higher education, and under his leadership, numerous officers have earned master's degrees while continuing to serve their community.

His commitment to law enforcement has extended far beyond Upper Makefield. Chief Schmidt served for more than 20 years as Secretary of the Bucks County Police Chiefs association and more than 20 years as President of the Bucks County Police Association, in addition to serving on three committees. Through these roles, he has helped strengthen and advance the law enforcement throughout Bucks County.

Chief Schmidt's remarkable career is a testament to his dedication, vision, and commitment to public service. For more than four decades, he has made lasting contributions to the Upper Makefield community and all entrusted to his care.

We are proud to recognize Chief Mark Schmidt and congratulate him on a truly extraordinary career and wish him all the best during this new chapter.

HONORING EVERETT TIMOTHY SANDERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Everett Timothy Sanders.

Everett Timothy Sanders, ex resident of Jackson, Mississippi, graduated from Lanier High School and Tougaloo College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1968. Following graduation from college, he enrolled in the University of Kentucky College of Law. His law school tenure was interrupted by his service in the U.S. Army. He returned to law school after his discharge and graduated in December 1972.

After graduating from the University of Kentucky College of Law, Everett worked for the Kentucky Labor Department. In 1974 he returned home where he passed the Mississippi Bar Examination. In January 1975 Mr. Sanders went into practice with the law firm of Brown, Alexander, and Sanders.

In 1976 Mr. Sanders was elected County Prosecutor for Claiborne County, Mississippi, becoming the first African American to hold such a position. Mr. Sanders was elected two terms as the Democratic National Committeeman for the State of Mississippi from 2004 to 2012.

Mr. Sanders has served in over 30 prestigious positions on the State and Federal level. He is a member of the Magnolia Bar Association (former president) NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (life member) and many more organizations. He is an active member of the Knights of Peter Claver and Holy Family Catholic Church located in Natchez, Mississippi.

He is married to Lillie Blackmon Sanders and the father of two daughters, Aisha and Keshia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Everett Timothy Sanders for his actions and achievements in the Natchez, Mississippi community.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER TREY TONEY

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer Trey Toney on his retirement from the Grapevine Police Department after 25 years of service. With decades in law enforcement, Officer Toney has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public safety and serving our North Texas community.

Officer Toney began his law enforcement career in 1994 with the Texarkana Police Department, where he served as a Patrol Officer before joining the Housing Projects and Gang Unit. In 2001, he joined the Grapevine Police Department and went on to serve the community in numerous capacities throughout his distinguished career.

During his time with the Grapevine Police Department, Officer Toney served in Patrol and spent a decade in the Motor Unit before transitioning to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, where he developed specialized expertise and worked to ensure the safety of Grapevine's roadways. In 2023, he transitioned into a new role as a School Resource Officer, continuing his commitment to public service by fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and students, staff, and families.

Over the past two years, Officer Toney has served at Grapevine Elementary, where his daily commitment to safety and building trust has made a lasting impact on the school community. I thank Officer Toney for his decades of service in protecting and serving others and wish him all the best as he begins his well-earned retirement.

HONORING "EL COMANDANTE" ANDRES HERNANDEZ

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize "El Comandante" Andres Hernandez for his extraordinary achievements as a community leader and band instructor for the youth of Santa Ana, California.

Andres's story began in the Mexican state of Morelos, in the city of Zapatec. At just 8 years old, Andres became a flag bearer for his school, where he would later work his way up to joining the esteemed Benito Juarez High School marching band, and become commander or orders or "El Comandante de Ordenes" for a neighboring school in the same municipality.

Andres's hard work and determination paid off, laying the foundation for him to become a marching band instructor for young folks. In 1998, Andres marked his formal beginnings as an instructor, where he taught the children of Cuahetomoc, Juan Jacobo Rousseau, and Benito Juarez respectively. Always striving for more, Andres formed the first marching band of the municipal police and the first "Banda de Guerra" for the municipality of Juarez Morelos.

In June of 2009, Andres founded his own marching band in his home district, "Banda de

Guerra Osos de California". This Santa Ana band prides itself on fostering cultural appreciation for the next generations of Mexican and Hispanic Americans. Under his leadership as Comandante, Banda de Guerra Osos has participated in various civic events across the Golden State, receiving well-deserved recognitions from the City of Santa Ana, Anaheim, and even countries across Latino-America. Andres's diligent work as a community leader caught my own eye, leading me to congressionally recognize him for his accomplishments.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Comandante Andres for his exemplary leadership and mentorship for the next generations. Our community thanks Comandante Andres for leading by example.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER "XANDER" TIMOTHY RIEXINGER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Alexander "Xander" Timothy RieXinger of Lower Saucon Township, Pennsylvania, whose passing has brought profound sadness to his family, friends, and the entire community.

Xander's passing is a heartbreaking loss for those who knew and loved him. For those who knew Xander, they might recall his deep appreciation of motorcycles and a passion for the open road. The memories of those rides and shared experiences will remain with those who loved him.

Xander was also an Eagle Scout with BSA Troop 27, an accomplishment that reflected his character, dedication, and commitment to service. The values he developed through Scouting were a meaningful part of the person he became and the life he shared with those around him.

Mr. Speaker, Xander's life touched so many of the people around him, and his memory will live on through the family and friends who knew him best. In times of loss, we are reminded of the importance of standing together and supporting our neighbors.

On behalf of myself and the people of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, I extend my deepest condolences to Xander's family, friends, and all who mourn his passing. May they find comfort in their memories of him and strength in one another.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF MR. AL RENDÓN

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Al Rendón for receiving the Aguila Aztlan award from the Centro Cultural Aztlan for his instrumental work in documenting and photographing the soul of Tejano and Mexican American culture in South Texas.