

with the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (ACCA). Within ACCA, Commissioner Rhone held numerous executive leadership positions, including 2nd Vice President in 2004, Vice President in 2005, and President in 2006. He also served multiple terms on the ACCA Board of Directors, the ACCA Legislative Committee, and the Workers' Compensation Board, where his leadership and insight helped shape policies that impacted countless lives across Alabama.

A true public servant and pillar of the Clarke County Community, Commissioner Rhone has played a key role in numerous regional and community organizations in addition to his work on the Clarke County Commission. Throughout his tenure, he served as Past Chairman and Board Member of the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Board and was an active member of the Ala-Tom Resource Conservation and Development Council, where he served as Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, he served as Chairman of the Board of the Southwest Alabama Community Action Agency, where he further demonstrated his commitment to economic development and support for underserved communities.

On a personal note, I am blessed to be close friends with Commissioner Rhone and his family. As we celebrate Commissioner Rhone on his 70th birthday, we also celebrate his legacy, which is defined by service, leadership, and an unwavering dedication to others. His decades of work have strengthened communities, expanded opportunities, and inspired those who have had the privilege of working alongside him. Commissioner Rhone's impact reaches far beyond titles and offices—it is reflected in the countless lives he has touched. On this special occasion, may we honor not only another year of life but a lifetime of meaningful contributions. I congratulate him on a life well led and happy 70th birthday. Here's to many more years.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 70th birthday of an exceptional public servant, Commissioner Rhondel B. Rhone, for his service to Clarke County and the State of Alabama.

CONGRATULATING COACH DAN HOGAN AND COACH LYNN PARMER ON COACHING HONORS

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Cocalico High School's girls' soccer coach, Mr. Dan Hogan, on receiving the 2025 W. Gene Davis Memorial Award as Class 3A girls Coach of the Year by the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (PSCA). I am equally pleased to recognize his colleague, Mrs. Lynn Parmer, for being named the Assistant Coach of the Year by the PSCA.

The Cocalico Eagles soared under Hogan and Parmer's leadership. During their stellar 20–2–3 season, the girls' soccer team won the Lancaster-Lebanon League section title and advanced to the District Three 3A championship. Beaten in the finals in the previous two years, the Eagles defeated their opponents 3–1 for their first District Three Class 3A title.

The Eagles then made it to the PIAA tournament quarterfinals before falling in overtime to the eventual tournament champions.

Having served as head coach for the last 26 years, Coach Hogan developed a history of success that culminated in their historic 2025 run. The PSCA's W. Gene Davis Memorial Award cements his legacy and marks him as one of the best soccer coaches in the state.

Equally deserving of commendation is Cocalico's Assistant Coach Lynn Parmer. Her significant role in Cocalico's success merited statewide recognition as PSCA's Assistant Coach of the Year for 2025. I congratulate the Cocalico girls' soccer team on their accomplishments in 2025 and coaches Hogan and Parmer, for their well-deserved recognition. I wish them continued success both on and off the field.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOLDEN THIRTEEN CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Golden Thirteen Congressional Gold Medal Act. This bill would award a posthumous Congressional Gold Medal to the 13 men who became the first African American commissioned and warrant officers in the United States Navy.

In 1944, the Navy began officer training for 16 African American men. At that time, there were no African American officers in the Navy. These 16 men were expected to complete their officer training in eight weeks, even though officer training was normally 16 weeks.

These 16 men supported each other, including by placing blankets over their windows and studying as a group by flashlight at night. Each brought to the group his own expertise to help the others.

When their officer training was completed, all 16 passed their exams. With some claiming that the group must have cheated, the group was forced to retake certain exams, and the group scored even higher. The average grade for the group was 3.89 out of 4.0, the highest average of any class in Navy history at that time.

Even though all 16 men passed their exams, the Navy commissioned only 12 of the men, and a 13th was made a chief warrant officer. Three returned to the enlisted ranks, with no reason given by the Navy.

During the men's careers, they oversaw all-Black units or the training of Black recruits. One would go on to make his career in the Navy after World War II, with the rest returning to civilian life. In the 1970s, Captain Edward Secrest, a former instructor, gave the group the name the "Golden Thirteen."

I urge my colleagues to support this bill to honor the first African American officers in the Navy: Jesse Walter Arbor; Phillip G. Barnes; Samuel Edward Barnes; Dalton Louis Baugh, Sr.; George Clinton Cooper; Reginald Ernest Goodwin; James Edward Hair; Charles Byrd Lear; Graham Edward Martin; Dennis Denmark Nelson; John Walter Reagan; Frank Ellis Sublett, Jr.; and William Sylvester White. The three men who passed their exams but were

not made officers were Augustus Alves; J.B. Pinkney; and Lewis "Mummy" Williams.

RECOGNIZING OSCAR LEROY WADE

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Oscar Leroy Wade of Farmington, Missouri. He died January 2, 2026, at the age of 97, and was among the last of the veterans from Farmington who served in World War II.

Mr. Wade's military service in the U.S. Navy became a cornerstone of his life. He enlisted at the age of 17 on August 6, 1946, and received an honorable discharge on April 29, 1948. He served in the South Pacific on the USS *Whiteside*. He earned the China Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the Navy Occupation Service Medal. Leroy served in the South Pacific on the USS *Whiteside*. He took great pride in collecting Navy memorabilia and telling stories of his time at sea.

Leroy was a member of Farmington VFW Post 5896 and when he was able, frequently attended veterans' events. In his later years, he would rise from his seat, hold onto his walker to stand at attention and salute when the colors were presented or when Taps was played. In 2015, he joined a group of local veterans on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to visit veterans' memorials. His room at Maplebrook Assisted Living was decorated in tribute to his naval service.

Leroy was born August 2, 1928, in Farmington and is survived by his sister, Barbara Cornellson, and his children, Cathy Mana, Mary LeTourneau, Nancy Rariden, Greg Wade, Diane Byrd and stepdaughter Kellie Grief. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

It is my great privilege to acknowledge Mr. Wade's patriotic pride and celebrate his military service today before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JANITA R. STEWART TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of the U.S. Small Business Administration Mississippi District's Director Janita R. Stewart. Janita is retiring after 51 years of federal government service and 41 years with the U.S. Small Business Administration. With years of knowledge, experience, positive leadership, and devotion to the small business community, Janita will be greatly missed across Mississippi and the Small Business Administration. She was primarily responsible for supervising the activities of team members in the Mississippi District and Gulfport Branch Offices. In addition, since March 2025, Janita has served as the Acting District Director for the SBA Alabama District Office, overseeing the activities of the team members

in Birmingham. Under her leadership, Janita led the SBA Mississippi District Office and the Gulfport Branch Office during disasters such as Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Janita has a keen understanding of working with people and building relationships and her passion will be missed. I am proud to have an opportunity to honor Janita's service to the state of Mississippi and our country, and I wish her the best in retirement.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF SALLY WALTERS

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary constituent from my district, Mrs. Sally Walters. Born on January 30, 1926, Sally exemplifies a century of steadfast dedication to family, education, and the spirit of wonder. Her 100 years of life stand as a powerful testament to a life lived to its fullest.

Growing up on Long Island at the height of the Great Depression, Sally was fortunate enough to grow up as the daughter of a produce peddler, who taught her the values of clean eating. Sally was ever the diligent student, making the ARISTA List before she graduated from Port Richmond High School in Staten Island, helping to foster her lifelong love of education and learning.

Sally enjoyed the best the New York Metropolitan area had to offer, frequenting Manhattan to see the likes of Frank Sinatra perform at the beginning of his rise to fame in addition to attending USO dances during the Second World War to entertain our troops. It was during the war where she met her first husband, Ed, riding bumper cars while he was stationed with the United States Army Air Force nearby. They were married in 1946 and moved to Philadelphia shortly thereafter.

As a young woman in post-war America, Sally joined the workforce as an executive secretary to the research chemists at Rohm Haas. She balanced her burgeoning professional career with the responsibilities of motherhood, raising 3 children in Bensalem and eventually joining the Bensalem School District as a secretary. It was during this time that her husband Ed unfortunately passed away.

Sally eventually found love again, marrying Bill, a veteran of the Marine Corps who helped reinvigorate her sense of wonder and adventure from her childhood. Together, Sally and Bill traveled across our beautiful country and beyond, exploring the landscape and cultures around the globe. Sally and Bill retired to Hendersonville, North Carolina until his passing, after which she moved to Bristol, Pennsylvania to be closer to her children.

Now, as she approaches age 100, Sally remains an extraordinary force, actively involved with her group of friends at the Bensalem Senior Center. She now spends her days enjoying games and the company of her 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren while maintaining a strict schedule of daily exercises, prayers and chores.

As we celebrate Sally's 100th birthday, we honor her enduring dedication to Bucks Coun-

ty as an educator, traveler, loving mother, and an inspiring woman of remarkable strength and character.

RECOGNIZING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH AND HONORING RETIRED
ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS
OSCAR PRIMM, JR.

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2026 theme—A Century of Black History Commemorations. This year marks a century of national commemorations of Black history.

I would like to take this time to honor Retired Army Sergeant First Class Oscar Primm, Jr., a 104-year-old veteran from Northwest Indiana whose service is an inspiration to all. Over the course of his heroic military career, Oscar served in three wars—World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. It is because of the sacrifices of veterans just like Oscar that we are able to live in a free, democratic country.

Oscar grew up in Arkansas and moved to Gary, Indiana, to work in the steel mills. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1942 and remembers the church bells ringing in the street when World War II ended. In 1946, Oscar returned home to continue working in the steel mills and remained in the Army Reserve. He went to school to learn how to repair cars and opened his own body shop at the intersection of 25th Avenue and Broadway serving the local community in Gary. When Oscar was called to serve again in the Korean War and the Vietnam War, he put his new skills to work as the head mechanic for a trucking company responsible for repairing vehicles for the battlefield.

In 1967, Oscar retired from the Army as a maintenance sergeant. He and his family briefly relocated to Chicago, where he drove a CTA bus for 14 years. Now, Oscar is a proud member of the Greater Gary AMVETS Squadron Post No. 6. He can frequently be found at the post playing dominoes, bringing veterans of all ages together, and supporting veterans throughout Northwest Indiana as they return home from service. In November, the Greater Gary AMVETS Squadron Post No. 6 recognized Oscar with the Lifetime American Hero Award to honor his achievements and military service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating Black History Month and a century of national Black History Commemorations by recognizing the selfless service, bravery, and patriotism of Retired Army Sergeant First Class Oscar Primm, Jr.

REMEMBERING YVONNE
FEDDERSON

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember Yvonne Feddersen, an Arizo-

nan whose compassion and resolve helped build Childhelp, one of the Nation's leading nonprofits dedicated to the prevention and treatment of child abuse. She devoted her life to protecting children who too often suffer in silence. Yvonne passed away on January 23, 2026, at the age of 90.

Yvonne first found success as an actress in film and television in the 1950s and 1960s. Her acting career included appearances in widely recognized films and television series. But she ultimately chose a life of service. Rather than continuing to pursue acting, Yvonne and her close friend and fellow actress Sara O'Meara turned their fame into a mission to protect vulnerable children in need. In 1959, the two actresses created International Orphans, Inc., to support orphans in post-typhoon Japan. International Orphans later evolved into Childhelp, a national nonprofit dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect and supporting children and families in need.

Friends and colleagues knew Yvonne as a steady and determined leader who understood that protecting at-risk children is hard work that requires persistence and dedication. That commitment helped Yvonne shape Childhelp into a practical, action-driven organization with real reach and impact. As President and Vice Chair of Childhelp, she helped build a national network of chapters and volunteers and expand programs like the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline and the Speak Up Be Safe prevention curriculum. Childhelp has supported more than 14 million children and families across the United States since its founding.

Yvonne's impact in Arizona is even more meaningful because it was her home. The Scottsdale-based Childhelp continues to advance the vision Yvonne and Sara first set out to realize more than six decades ago: to keep children safe and to help communities respond to children in need quickly and with compassion. Childhelp has impacted communities across Arizona through prevention programs and direct services, including residential treatment programs that have helped young survivors heal and rebuild their lives.

I extend my condolences to Yvonne's loved ones and to the entire Childhelp community, who will carry her mission forward and continue building on the legacy she created.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Yvonne Feddersen. Our country is better off because of Yvonne. Arizona is better off because of Yvonne. I thank Yvonne for a lifetime of service to children and families in need.

HONORING THE CAREER AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF DR.
STEVEN G. SCOTT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 2, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and tireless service of Dr. Steven G. Scott, who has dedicated 35 years of distinguished service to the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service in support of our Nation's service members and Veterans. Dr. Scott began his career with