

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, last week, a mournful Nation marked the 25th Anniversary of September 11th. I include in the RECORD my remarks offered at the Monmouth County 9/11 Memorial Ceremony in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey.

Thank you, Commissioner Director Arnone, for your very eloquent remarks. Commissioner Ross Licitra, our emcee, thank you. Amy Harigel—that rendition of the national anthem on this very, very somber day just lifts all of our spirits. That was very beautifully done. Thanks to Rev. Sparks for his moving invocation, and Jessica Cappadona, thank you—that was a really powerful witness of why we must educate the next generation about 9/11.

You know, 25 years later, all of us solemnly remember those who lost their lives and the pain suffered by nearly 3,000 individuals—including 147 people from Monmouth County—who were murdered by radical jihadists and the anguish endured by their families and their friends both then and now.

We remember and honor the courageous first responders running up the stairs of burning buildings with total disregard for their own safety, attempting to save others at the expense of their own lives. We honor the first responders who have suffered and died from illnesses related to the rescue and recovery efforts in the aftermath of 9/11.

According to the World Trade Center Health Program, an estimated 400,000 people were exposed to toxic contaminants in New York. 96,000 people have been diagnosed with physical and mental health conditions as a result of the exposure to the dust, the smoke, the debris, and the traumatic events of 9/11. Over 9,000 people have died after 9/11 itself with illnesses directly linked to the attack.

You know, it's widely believed that Flight 93 was headed to Washington. A mention was made earlier about how it was brought down by the courageous men on that flight, especially Todd Beamer from Cranbury who said "Let's roll!" And they brought down that plane and they stopped what would have been another horrific attack . . . we thought it was going for the Capitol.

You know, a member of my staff, Kathy Wisniewski, who was then a Howell resident, lost her husband Alan on 9/11. Alan was an associate director for Sandler O'Neill Investment, and his office was on the 104th floor of the South Tower. His last phone call before the plane hit was to say, "Hey, honey, I'm okay." And then he died.

Through Kathy and their children, as well as from many of the survivors who are here, including the Jersey Girls who helped get the 9/11 Commission—it was going nowhere until they said, "We have to know the who, what, when, where, why, of all of this, so it never happens again."

And of course, that 9/11 Commission was headed so ably and so effectively by Tom Kean, our former governor. And that was the blueprint for what we do in follow-up. What happened, what led up to it, and what do we need to do to mitigate the possibility of this ever happening again?

As we remember the victims, every one of us need to seriously recommit ourselves to persevering prayer; a sense of reconciliation, yes; but also support for effective intelligence gathering and law enforcement to better interdict violence in all of its ugly manifestations.

Mention has been made a couple times—and Jessica, thank you for doing this again—about the young people—and Tom, you said it as well: the 9/11 Memorial and Museum reminds us that 100 million Americans were too young to remember that day that, as they put it, changed our city and nation forever. It is our shared promise made 25 years ago never forget, those who were born after 9/11, to learn the significance and the enduring legacy. As we commemorate this anniversary, a new generation will learn about the unimaginable loss that was experienced by so many and the inspiring stories of bravery, compassion, unity, and service that we witnessed that will ripple through the decades.

Thank you to the Monmouth County Commissioners for so effectively bringing us together to remember, and to pray that it never happens again, and do everything we can to help those who have suffered so much. Thank you.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF CAPTAIN DAVID PAYNE**HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a proud son of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Captain David Payne, for his 26 years of outstanding Active-Duty Naval service.

Captain Payne's distinguished career includes operational assignments as a division officer aboard the USS *ALABAMA*, as Engineering Officer aboard the USS *PORTSMOUTH*, as Executive Officer aboard the USS *KEY WEST*, and as the Commanding Officer of the USS *CALIFORNIA*.

Additionally, Captain Payne served in multiple staff assignments around the globe, most recently as the Deputy Director of Navy Programs and Undersea and Strategic Programs congressional liaison at the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs. Captain Payne is privileged to have been a part of many outstanding teams, having earned two Battle Efficiency Awards, a Secretary of the Navy Letter of Commendation, a Joint Meritorious Unit Citation, and a Meritorious Unit Citation. However, he is most proud to be the dedicated husband of Mrs. Diane Payne, and the loving father of Michael and Megan Payne.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Captain David Payne for his exemplary dedication to our Nation as he retires from Naval service. Throughout his 26 years of service, Captain Payne has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the defense of our Nation and the safety of our service members. His profound patriotism, stellar leadership, and tireless work ethic leave an enduring legacy that has strengthened our National Defense.

HONORING FATHER BILL CAO

HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father Bill Cao, an Orange County Pas-

tor who has dedicated his life in service to those around him. His impact on Orange County through his work as a pastor is felt throughout all corners of our community.

Father Cao was born in Saigon, Vietnam a couple years prior to the Communist occupation. He, alongside his ten siblings, escaped Vietnam at a young age—destined for the United States to achieve greater opportunity and their American Dream. Filled with uncertainty but also faith, Father Cao and his family were among the countless thousands of Vietnamese refugees who fled on small rickety fishing boats to escape the turmoil of war, religious persecution, and uncertainty.

Throughout the years, the Vietnamese community eventually found a home in Orange County, where Father Cao and his family eventually settled to lay the roots for their forever home. Bound together by the hardships they experienced, Father Cao and his family built a safe haven in a small pocket of central Orange County, now better known as Little Saigon. This community, which harbors the largest Vietnamese diaspora outside of Vietnam, is bonded by the trials and tribulations they faced, and they continue to be an integral part of why Orange County is home to the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam.

Father Cao used the promise of the American dream to further pursue an education here in the States. Father Cao proudly obtained his bachelor's degree, having later been selected to attend the American College and the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, further enriching his studies.

Father Cao continues to embolden his local community and those around him through his spiritual teachings, where he is now Pastor for St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church here in my hometown of Anaheim, California. Father Cao represents the best of America, using this country as an opportunity to rebuild, educate, and inspire himself and those around him. We thank him for his influence and endless service to all of us here in Orange County.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
ESTUARIES WEEK**HON. BRIAN J. MAST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Estuaries Week and our communities that are truly blessed with one of the most unique ecosystems in the world. The Everglades and our coastal estuaries, such as the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon, provide both environmental and economic benefits, and we all must do our part to keep them clean.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), estuaries play a huge role not just in the Sunshine State but to our Nation as a whole. 40 percent of Americans live in estuary regions, and those regions contribute nearly half of the Nation's economic output, despite taking up only 13 percent of the land area of the continental United States.

The importance of these ecosystems extends beyond their environmental benefits.

The number of people in the United States engaged in outdoor recreation has never been higher. Boating, fishing, hunting, kayaking, paddle boarding, and birding are all major economic drivers and represent unique ways to interact with estuaries. Boating and fishing combined was the largest recreational activity for the Nation in 2024, coming in at \$36.8 billion in current-dollar value added.

These numbers demonstrate just how important our waterways are to the American economy and to the millions of Americans who enjoy them every year. For communities in Florida, these waterways are not just places to enjoy the outdoors, they are part of our way of life and support local economies across our state.

But our ecosystems are at risk—whether it is toxic discharges or manatees dying across our estuaries, the problems facing places like the Indian River Lagoon, the Caloosahatchee, the St. Lucie, and the Lake Worth Lagoon have shown over and over again that we must do more to conserve and protect our state.

This year, I am proud to be the sponsor of a bipartisan resolution that formally recognizes September 19, 2026, to September 26, 2026 as National Estuaries Week. The resolution reminds all of us that these habitats are critical and that Florida cannot wait around for help. We must work every day to preserve this environment.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF NANCY RUTH OSBORNE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Nancy Ruth Osborne, who passed away on April 8, 2026, at the age of 78.

Nancy grew up in a military family, living on Army bases in Japan, Turkey, and the United States. She graduated from Las Cruces High School in New Mexico, after which she attended California State University, Fresno and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communications.

She began her 37-year career at ABC30 in 1977, breaking the glass ceiling for young women in reporting by becoming one of the region's earliest women to anchor local television news. Nancy quickly developed a reputation for integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to the community she served.

Over the course of her career, Nancy co-anchored Action News and wrote and produced "360", the San Joaquin Valley's first locally developed television news magazine program. In 1996, after two decades on air, she was appointed Executive Producer of Special Projects. As executive producer, she helped guide station coverage while continuously reporting on public affairs, politics, and issues affecting children and families.

Notably, Nancy covered many important events, such as the inauguration of Ronald Reagan in 1981, Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Yosemite National Park in 1983, the launch of a space shuttle at Cape Canaveral and its landing in the California desert, the aftermath of the Coalinga earthquake, and a story close to her heart: going to sea on the USS *Lincoln*

to report on the pilots and sailors from the San Joaquin Valley.

In January 2004 Nancy returned to reporting full-time. Once again, bringing her experience and expertise to the daily Action News team. While there she co-anchored Action News at Five with her good friend and colleague, Warren Armstrong.

In 2005, the Northern California chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences inducted the Emmy award-winning Osborne into its prestigious Silver Circle for her commitment of over 25 years to the Fresno television market and the broadcast news industry. She was also awarded the esteemed Edward R. Morrow Award, which commemorates only the best of local broadcasting journalism.

Outside of the newsroom Nancy was deeply engaged in community service and charitable work throughout Central California. She was always particularly passionate about serving the military community.

At the age of 64, Ms. Osborne decided to retire after an injury that left her unable to do the job to her own standards. During her exit interview in 2012, Nancy recounted how much she owed her career to her daily viewers. "I never would have lasted 20 minutes, much less 20 or 30 years. And it is because of the folks who watched us every day."

Nancy Osborne was a beloved figure and trailblazer. She was a passionate, accomplished news media professional, who cared deeply for her community and the members of our military who bravely serve to defend our country. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING MINISTRY OF NEW BEGINNINGS

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ministry of New Beginnings, located at 9704 Everglades Avenue in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a congregation that has faithfully served the Baton Rouge community for more than two decades. Ministry of New Beginnings was organized on April 29, 2002, under the leadership and vision of Reverend Vanna Breckenridge, who gave the church its name as members began preparing for their first worship service. The charter members who helped establish the church, President Reverend Vanna Breckenridge, Vice President Kelles Breckenridge, Chairman Deacon Leonard Harris, and Board Members Sister Corine Jackson and Sister Erma Patin, laid the foundation for Ministry of New Beginnings through their prayers, dedication, service, and unwavering commitment to the work of the Lord. Their faith and sacrifice helped make the vision of the church a reality.

The church held its first service on May 25, 2003, in a building that had been remodeled and dedicated to the work of the Lord, and Reverend Vanna Breckenridge was installed as pastor. As the congregation continued to grow, Ministry of New Beginnings established several ministries and auxiliaries, including the Deacon and Deaconess Boards, Sanctuary Choir, Usher Board, Kitchen Ministry, Male Chorus, and Sunday School, each deepening the spiritual life and fellowship of the church.

On December 6, 2007, Ministry of New Beginnings experienced a devastating fire. Yet through prayer, fasting, faith, and the outpouring of support from families, members, friends, and the community, the congregation was able to rebuild. What could have marked the end of the church instead became another testimony to God's faithfulness, and Ministry of New Beginnings continued moving forward by faith.

On November 3, 2024, Pastor Dr. Robert Williams, III was installed as Pastor of Ministry of New Beginnings, ushering in a new season of leadership for the congregation. Since accepting the call to lead, Pastor Williams has brought a renewed vision and a spirit of growth to the church. Under his leadership, membership has increased, and the Youth Ministry has been strengthened, developed, and positioned for continued growth, reflecting Pastor Williams' recognition that investing in the next generation is essential to the future of the church. On July 22, 2025, Pastor Williams introduced the Ministry of New Beginnings Youth Department to the Glory to Glory Youth Conference, founded by Pastor Dr. Mark A. Lit, Sr., an annual gathering dedicated to providing support, spiritual growth, and empowerment services for at-risk youth and young adults through leadership training, spiritual development sessions, and interactive youth events.

Pastor Williams' vision extends beyond the walls of the church to the surrounding community. Among his goals is the development of a Community Food Pantry to help address food disparity and provide assistance to individuals and families in need throughout the area, reflecting the church's commitment not only to worship God but also to serve others and make a meaningful difference in the community. On August 22, 2026, the church launched its Dance, Mime, and Puppet Ministry, offering new avenues of worship and creative expression for members of all ages.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ministry of New Beginnings, Pastor Dr. Robert Williams, III, and the dedicated congregation for more than two decades of steadfast faith, resilience, and service to the Baton Rouge community. As Ministry of New Beginnings enters this new season, may it continue to stand on its foundation of faith while embracing a vision for growth, service, youth development, and community outreach.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF TURNER KOROTZER

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Turner Korotzer of Hillsdale as the Veteran of the Month for September, and honor him for his sacrifice and service on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Turner enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2015, serving proudly as a Network Administrator with the Headquarters Battalion of the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in California. During his service, Turner deployed twice to Kuwait and later to Syria with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Throughout his time in the service, Turner's dedication