HONORING KEEP LOVE ALIVE CHURCH

HON. CLEO FIELDS

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Keep Love Alive Church, located in the Chapel of Oak Park Plaza retirement facility in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and to recognize the vital ministry it has provided to some of our community's most treasured, yet often overlooked, residents for the past 16 years.

Since its founding in 2010, Keep Love Alive Church has ministered mostly to the elderly and retired, faithfully serving the residents of Oak Park Plaza and, by extension, one of the most neglected and underserved populations in Baton Rouge: those living in retirement facilities and nursing homes. For far too many residents of such facilities, opportunities for spiritual fellowship and worship can become increasingly difficult to access as age and mobility change their daily lives. Keep Love Alive Church was built to meet that need directly, bringing the Word of God, fellowship, and ministry to those who might otherwise be unable to receive it.

From the very beginning, Reverend Michael Collins has served as Pastor of Keep Love Alive Church, and for 16 years he has answered God's calling to serve this population with faithfulness and joy. Pastor Collins is supported in this mission by two associate ministers, who work alongside him to ensure that the congregation's approximately twenty-five members receive the spiritual care, worship, and fellowship they deserve. It is evident that God placed upon Pastor Collins's heart and spirit a deep and abiding commitment to this ministry, and he continues to serve it not out of obligation, but with genuine happiness and responsiveness to his calling.

The members of Keep Love Alive Church represent generations of faith, wisdom, and life experience, and this body should recognize that their contributions did not end upon entering a retirement facility. These are individuals who spent lifetimes raising families, building careers, serving their communities, and living out their faith long before Keep Love Alive Church ever came into existence. In their later years, they continue to embody that same faith, gathering in worship and fellowship as an active, living congregation rather than a forgotten population. Keep Love Alive Church honors that lifetime of faith simply by ensuring it does not go unrecognized or unattended in this later season of life.

Ministries such as Keep Love Alive Church remind us that the elderly and retired members of our community are not a population to be set aside, but a population still very much in need of, and deserving of, active spiritual care, fellowship, and love. Through their steadfast presence at Oak Park Plaza, Pastor Collins, his associate ministers, and the congregation of Keep Love Alive Church have shown Baton Rouge what it truly means to keep love alive for those who may need it most.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Keep Love Alive Church, Pastor Michael Collins, and the congregation for 16 years of faithful ministry to the elderly and retired residents of Baton Rouge. May this ministry continue to be a source of comfort, dignity, and love for many years to come.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER PATRICIA ''PATTI'' LEE

HON. LATEEFAH SIMON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a beacon of justice and reform in the Bay Area, Ms. Patricia ''Patti'' Lee, the Assistant Chief Public Defender of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office.

Ms. Lee was born in San Francisco's Chinatown and raised in the Richmond District. A lifelong San Franciscan, Ms. Lee attended Lafayette Elementary School, Presidio Middle School, and Washington High School. Ms. Lee went on to receive her B.A. at the University of California, Berkeley and earned her J.D. at Lincoln Law School.

In 1977, Ms. Lee began her career with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, joining what was then known as the Juvenile Unit. Ms. Lee would go on to become the Managing Attorney of the Youth Defender Unit and serve in that role for more than three decades. As Managing Attorney, Ms. Lee spearheaded a revolution in the office's approach to juvenile defense, expanding access to social workers and defense-based disposition reports, reducing state institutional commitments for San Francisco youth, and championing alternatives to incarceration. Under Ms. Lee's leadership, juvenile commitments to state institutions were nearly eliminated, creating new hope and opportunities for hundreds of justice-involved youths. Due to Ms. Lee's indefatigable advocacy, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted in 2019 to permanently close the city's Juvenile Hall, becoming the first major city in the Nation to vote to end the practice of jailing children.

In addition to her work with the Youth Defender Unit, Ms. Lee has also overseen the Public Defender's Office's Defend Division, providing sound guidance to dozens of public defenders, attorneys, and client advocates working to represent San Franciscans facing juvenile, immigration, post-conviction, and mental health challenges.

Ms. Lee has been recognized at the local, state, and national level for her fearless advocacy and service. In 2017, Ms. Lee was appointed to then-President Barack Obama's Science Advisory Board on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Ms. Lee has also served as Co-Director of the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center and served on the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice, the Family and Law Advisory Committee of the Judicial Council, the Center for Families, Children and the Courts, and has participated in the California Courts Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee. Additionally, Ms. Lee has served on the boards of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice and East Bay Children's Law Offices. For her ceaseless efforts to advocate for juvenile justice reform, Ms. Lee has received the San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking's Modern Day Abolitionist Award for Outstanding Policy and Legal Achievements, the Pacific Asian American Women Bay Area Coalition's Woman Warrior Award for Outstanding Achievement in Law, the National Juvenile Defender Center's Leadership Award for Excellence in Juvenile Defense, the Pacific Juvenile Defender of the Year Award, and the California Wellness Foundation's Peace Prize Award for her commitment to promoting peace in local communities.

Throughout her storied career, Ms. Lee has doggedly pursued the fight for justice, dignity, and reform, placing the rights and futures of young people at the center of her work. Ms. Lee has been an exemplary public servant and an inspiration for generations of public defenders, advocates, and reformers. Her impact will be felt by Californians for decades to come. As she enters her retirement, I thank Ms. Lee for her decades of service and wish her health, hope, and happiness in the years ahead.

CELEBRATING CHEN MOORE AND ASSOCIATES ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chen Moore and Associates (Chen Moore) on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. Founded in November 1986 and headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Chen Moore has grown into a respected multidisciplinary firm providing engineering, planning, environmental science, landscape architecture, site development, and project delivery services throughout Florida and beyond. With 13 offices across Florida, along with offices in Atlanta, Knoxville, and Raleigh, the firm has completed hundreds of projects while demonstrating a strong commitment to technical excellence, environmental stewardship, and sustainable and resilient communities.

Chen Moore's success reflects the leadership and service of its founder, Dr. Ben Chen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Peter Moore, and President Jose L. Acosta. Each has made significant contributions to the engineering profession and the South Florida community through professional leadership, mentorship, philanthropy, and nonprofit service.

As part of its 40th anniversary, Chen Moore partnered with the ASCE Florida Section and the Florida Engineering Foundation, Inc. to establish the Chen Moore Scholarship Fund, supporting the next generation of engineering students.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Chen Moore and Associates on four decades of service, innovation, and community commitment, and I extend my best wishes to its entire team for many more years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING LINDER FARM NETWORK

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Linder Farm Network—a true staple of our southern Minnesota agricultural community—and congratulate them on celebrating 50 years on air.

For decades, the Linder Farm Network has been a trusted voice for farmers, producers, and rural families across corn and soybean country.

What started as a vision by Lynn Ketelsen and the Linder family on four local stations has grown into a network of 39 stations covering 89 counties.

Through the last half century of planting seasons, harvests, market swings, and industry changes, Linder Farm Network has been in trucks and tractor cabs with southern Minnesota producers, delivering the critical market data, weather updates, and agricultural programming that farm country relies on.

The dedication of Lynn and the Linder team has earned them the top-rated farm network in the state and I'm proud to commend them on fifty years of service to keeping our rural communities connected.

I congratulate the entire team at Linder Farm Network on celebrating this incredible milestone. Wishing them all continued success for the next 50 years and beyond.

HONORING MR. MAJOR JEWEL McDONALD

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Major Jewel McDonald of Louisville, Mississippi, a man whose life stands as a living testimony to faith, family, perseverence, and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

Mr. McDonald was born on November 1, 1915, in Winston County, Mississippi, to Henry and Georgia McDonald. He came into this world during a time very different from the one we know today. He has lived through Prohibition, the Great Depression, World War II, the Jim Crow era, the civil rights movement, the 1918 Influenza pandemic, COVID–19, and more than a century of change in our Nation.

One of thirteen children raised by a single mother, Mr. McDonald learned early that life required hard work, patience, and faith. He remembers a childhood in which the family did not have much and transportation meant little more than a mule and a wagon. Yet from those humble beginnings came a man whose life would stretch across generations and remind us that greatness is often born in places the world overlooks.

As a young man, Mr. McDonald left Mississippi for Ohio during the years when many Black families journeyed north in search of work and opportunity. He worked for the Kroger Company for more than three decades before retiring. But Mississippi was always home. After retirement, he returned to Louisville, where his roots, his family, and his memories remained.

Mr. McDonald's life has never been measured only by years, but by the people he has loved and the community he has touched. He is a husband, father, grandfather, neighbor, fisherman, and friend. He is known in his community for his kindness, his gentle spirit, and for the fish he caught and shared, including a catch that helped inspire what became an annual church fish fry tradition. His life teaches us that service does not always require a title. Sometimes it looks like feeding people, loving family, and showing up for one's community.

In 2025, Mr. McDonald celebrated his 110th birthday with family and friends, becoming a supercentenarian. His age has been validated by longevity researchers, and he is now recognized as the oldest validated living man in the United States. Even now, he remains a symbol of strength and grace, still living in the community that helped shape him.

Mr. McDonald has encouraged young people to slow down, reminding them of the Scripture that those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. That wisdom, spoken by a man who has seen more than most of us can imagine, carries the weight of history and the warmth of lived experience.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major Jewel McDonald, a living bridge between Mississippi's past and future and a reminder that faith, family, work, humility, and patience remain pillars of a meaningful life.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF LEE BRATCHER, JR.

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a very happy 100th birthday to a remarkable Kentuckian and United States Army veteran, Lee Bratcher, Jr.

Born on September 16, 1926, in Halt County, Kentucky, Lee was the fourth of five children born to Roberta and Lee Bratcher, Sr. Growing up in rural Kentucky during the height of the Great Depression, Lee learned the value of hard work and responsibility at an early age. After completing eighth grade and while working on his family's farm, Lee registered for the Selective Service in 1943.

At the age of 19, Lee was drafted into the United States Army in November 1945 to serve during World War II. After completing various trainings in preparation for his deployment, Lee went on to be stationed in Europe, primarily in Germany, as the War ended and the process of rebuilding the European continent began. After two years of dedicated military service, Lee returned home to the Commonwealth, marrying Betty Jean Reynolds on November 5, 1949. Together, they built a life centered around faith and community.

Faith has been at the center of Lee's life, helping to guide and shape the spiritual life of those in his community. Over the years, he has served as a deacon, treasurer, and member of the building and pastor search committees at Lonoke Baptist Church in Horse Cave, Kentucky. Shortly after his return from Europe, Lee and his wife purchased their first farm in Hart County, growing tobacco and raising cattle. As a 30-year member of the Hart County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Lee has held the role of president on three separate occasions, helping to shape agriculture policy in the county and Commonwealth.

On October 7, 2019, Lee faced the heartbreaking loss of his wife, Betty. Their commitment to each other was evident throughout their lives, allowing them to be just one month shy of their 70th wedding anniversary. Her memory lives on in Lee and their three children, Pam, James, and Don. For 100 years, Lee Bratcher, Jr. has represented the very best of the American spirit. I wish Lee a happy 100th birthday and I thank him for a century of service to his family, his community, and our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MATTHEW A. ''MATT'' LEWIS

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Matthew A. ''Matt'' Lewis, a beloved member of the Owego community who passed away on September 6, 2026, surrounded by his loving family.

Matt was a longtime radio broadcaster with WEBO, where he became a familiar voice to generations of listeners throughout the region. Through his work behind the microphone, he connected with local athletes, community leaders, and neighbors, helping tell the stories that make our communities special. He also shared his love of racing as an announcer at racetracks throughout New York and Pennsylvania.

Beyond broadcasting, Matt dedicated countless hours to supporting the Boy Scouts of America. As a Scoutmaster with Troop 60, he helped grow the troop from just five boys to more than 100 registered Scouts. His commitment to mentorship, service, and community left a lasting impact on the young people he guided.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring the life of Matthew Lewis and extending our deepest condolences to his wife, Cobi, his children, his grandchildren, and all who knew him. His dedication and familiar voice will be missed throughout Owego and the Southern Tier.

RECOGNIZING MAURA DRUMM AS A RECIPIENT OF THE 2026 IRISH ECHO LABOR AWARD

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maura Drumm on being recognized as a 2026 Irish Echo Labor Awards honoree for her outstanding work as Media Coordinator and Communications Project Manager for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. I am proud to say that