

The Sklarczyks' commitment to conservation is reflected in their use of cover crops, reduced-till practices, and high-efficiency greenhouses, all of which protect soil health and conserve resources. Within their greenhouses, they produce more than nine million disease-free seed potatoes each year, spanning over one hundred varieties. As well as using clean growing environments that reduce the need for pesticides while promoting soil conservation.

Beyond their success in potato production, Ben and Alison continue to look toward the future by exploring new and emerging crops, including making barley, which exceeds current quality standards. By combining scientific research with practical, hands-on experience, they are helping build a more diverse, sustainable, and competitive agricultural economy for Michigan and all of the Great Lakes region.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Ben and Alison Sklarczyk on receiving the Conservation Innovation Award and to thank them for their dedication to Michigan agriculture, environmental stewardship, and the future of our Nation's food system.

RECOGNIZING DON MUNSON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Lieutenant Colonel Don Munson, United States Army, of Coppell, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Lieutenant Colonel Munson was commissioned as an officer upon graduating from Tulane University in 1960 as a Distinguished Military Graduate. Over the course of a 23-year Army career, he served in numerous leadership roles, including with the 82nd Airborne Division, Special Forces, and the 1st Cavalry Division. During the Vietnam War, he commanded C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, and later served as Operations Officer for the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry. For his extraordinary gallantry, he earned the Silver Star for capturing three enemy combatants under fire and the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism in extracting stranded soldiers under intense enemy attack. Throughout his command, he was deeply respected for his courage, integrity, and care for those under his leadership—never losing a single soldier in combat.

Lieutenant Colonel Munson's decorations also include two Bronze Stars for Valor, eleven Air Medals, five Meritorious Service Medals, and the Purple Heart, as well as the Master Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, and Pathfinder Badge.

His dedication to service did not end with his military career. A longtime member and former commander of the Military Order of World Wars, he authored and published the Dallas Chapter's monthly newsletter for twenty years. As a result of his hard work and leadership, the Dallas Chapter was named "Chapter of the Year" for 15 of its first 19 years. He also served as Chairman of the Dallas Vet-

erans Day Parade, helping elevate the event to one of national prominence. For nearly two decades he directed the Texas A&M Youth Leadership Conference, an initiative he founded to teach principles of patriotism, leadership, and service to the next generation.

Lieutenant Colonel Munson's service is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

COMMENDING THE TAIWANESE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER CHICAGO

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Taiwanese American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Chicago (TACCGC) for its longstanding contributions to economic development, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement in the Greater Chicago region.

Founded in 1988, TACCGC has served as a vital forum for professionals and business leaders from a wide range of industries, fostering collaboration, supporting business growth, and strengthening the local economy.

Beyond its work in business development, TACCGC actively promotes Taiwanese American interests, strengthens economic ties between the United States and Taiwan, and encourages participation in American civic life. Its commitment to community involvement and international cooperation reflects the values that drive lasting prosperity.

I want to thank President Lisa Su and the other leaders for their leadership and service, and I am proud to recognize the organization's continued positive impact.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S.-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of U.S.-Philippine relations.

In 1946, the Nation of the Philippines gained its independence and officially opened diplomatic relations with the United States. Since then, the U.S.-Philippine Alliance has evolved to become one of our most critical Pacific partnerships.

The United States and the Philippines share deep historical and cultural ties. During the Second World War, Filipinos fought alongside American service members in a battle for freedom against the imperial Japanese military from the battlefields of Luzon to the shores of Leyte Gulf.

Our shared sacrifice in defense of the Philippines led to one of our Nation's longest standing defense treaties in Asia, The Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty, signed August 1951. The foundational agreement set up the

cornerstone for the U.S.-Philippine Alliance, ensuring an attack on one is an attack on both.

Since 1951, our security cooperation has evolved and strengthened. In 2014, our two countries signed an Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, increasing the U.S. military's rotational presence to tackle new challenges in the West Philippine Sea.

Our ties to the Philippines are more than just defensive, they are connected deeply by bonds of friendship and culture. More than 4 million people throughout the United States identify as Filipino. They serve in our armed forces, contribute to our healthcare system, and own and operate thousands of small businesses that support our economy.

As we launch this 80th anniversary year, let us reaffirm our commitments to our shared democratic values, a free and open Indo-Pacific, and renewed prosperity for the peoples of the United States and the Philippines.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND GREGORY M. GOETHALS

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Reverend Gregory M. Goethals.

Reverend Gregory was an extraordinary leader within the Loyola High School community for 19 years, and his teachings will continue to resonate in the lives of the students he touched.

Since 1988, he dedicated his life to helping others experience God's unconditional love as deeply as he did. Beyond his service, Reverend Gregory cherished the arts and was no stranger to the stage—where his quick wit and warm humor brought joy to so many.

His passing is a tremendous loss for his family, his fellow Jesuits, and the entire Loyola community. May he rest in peace with the angels and saints in the everlasting presence of God.

RECOGNIZING DAVID LOCKWOOD

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th Congressional District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Lieutenant David Richard Lockwood, United States Navy, of Grapevine, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Lieutenant Lockwood began his military career in the Army National Guard in 2015 and later commissioned as a Chaplain in the United States Navy in 2021. Throughout his service, he has ministered to Sailors, Marines, and their families with compassion, courage, and excellence serving in Japan, Everett, and Bahrain. As Command Chaplain for Expeditionary Medical Facility Jacksonville, he created a training platform later adopted by the