

culture, sports, government, and business. In my own district, I am especially grateful for the Dominican community's role in shaping our small businesses, civic institutions, and cultural landscape. I am also proud that our community produced the first Dominican American elected Brooklyn Borough President, my friend Antonio Reynoso.

To honor Dominican Heritage Month, I am pleased to recognize six outstanding individuals whose dedication, public service, and leadership continue to inspire future generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating: Maria Viera, Sonia Medrano, Socrate Liriano, Vincente Trinidad, Roberto Latingua and Rufina Valdez. These honorees contribute to the vibrant tapestry of New York City.

Their achievements are a testament to the thriving Dominican presence in New York City and beyond. Let us continue to uplift and celebrate the Dominican community, not just this month, but every day.

RECOGNIZING DINAH WHIPPLE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dinah Whipple of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in celebration of Black History Month. Dinah Whipple was a monumental figure for educational equality in the State of New Hampshire.

Dinah was enslaved until her emancipation at the age of 21. On February 12, 1781, Dinah married Prince Whipple, who for many years was enslaved by William Whipple, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Dinah Whipple conducted the Ladies African Charitable School for several decades, providing education for formerly enslaved people and their children.

Over two centuries later, her legacy still lives on in New Hampshire with the Dinah Whipple STEAM Academy at the University of New Hampshire. This program offers underrepresented young teens of color the opportunity to explore science, technology, engineering, arts, math, and black history in America for no cost. In addition, the location of Dinah Whipple's trail blazing school is now a stop on the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I recognize Dinah Whipple for her selflessness to New Hampshire's community and history. Now more than ever, it is important to honor and celebrate the lives of individuals who gave back to our communities, and Dinah Whipple's legacy and memory must be honored.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICE

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of

Family Counseling Service (FCS) in Aurora, Illinois. For a century, FCS has been a pillar of compassion, support, and guidance, providing critical mental health and social services to individuals and families in need.

Since its founding in 1925, Family Counseling Service has remained steadfast in its mission to strengthen communities through accessible and comprehensive counseling, advocacy, and outreach programs. Over the years, FCS has expanded its services to address the evolving needs of the community, offering mental health counseling, financial empowerment programs, crisis intervention, and support for survivors of domestic violence.

Through its dedicated team of professionals and community partnerships, FCS has transformed countless lives by ensuring that everyone, regardless of background or financial status, has access to the care and resources they need to thrive. Their century-long commitment to mental wellness and family stability has made an indelible impact on Aurora and beyond.

As they commemorate this remarkable 100-year milestone, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the staff, counselors, and volunteers of Family Counseling Service. Their unwavering dedication, compassion, and expertise have been the driving force behind the organization's success. Through their hard work, they have uplifted individuals, strengthened families, and transformed lives, making our communities stronger and more resilient.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such an impactful organization in my district. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Family Counseling Service on its 100th Anniversary. Their tireless efforts have enriched the lives of so many, and I am confident that their legacy of service will continue for generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF DENVER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representatives JASON CROW and BRITTANY PETTERSEN, to recognize the 30th anniversary of Denver International Airport, a cornerstone of Colorado's economy and a critical gateway to the world. Since opening its doors on February 28, 1995, Denver International Airport—commonly known as DEN—has played a transformative role in connecting Denver and the entire Rocky Mountain region to destinations across the globe.

Denver International Airport is more than just an airport—it is an economic powerhouse. Generating more than \$36.4 billion annually and supporting over 41,000 jobs, it has become the largest economic engine in the state of Colorado. From the beginning, its construction was guided by bold leadership and the support of voters, resulting in a facility designed for the future. Spanning 53 square miles, DEN was built with expansion in mind, with the ability to grow from six to twelve runways to meet increasing demand.

Over the past three decades, Denver International Airport has served nearly 15 billion

passengers and has risen to become the third-busiest airport in North America. With projections nearing 100 million annual passengers in the coming years, the airport continues to evolve, ensuring it remains a world-class hub for air travel. Its iconic tented terminal, with 21 Teflon peaks, is recognized around the world and symbolizes Colorado's welcoming spirit and pioneering ambition.

Beyond its economic contributions, Denver International Airport has been a leader in sustainability and inclusiveness. Through innovative construction and operational practices, it has demonstrated environmental responsibility while fostering opportunities for a diverse workforce. The airport's Center of Equity and Excellence in Aviation has been instrumental in creating partnerships with local businesses and developing career pathways for underrepresented communities.

Denver International Airport is also a champion of Colorado's unique character, offering travelers a true taste of the state through its locally inspired concessions, dedicated volunteer ambassadors in cowboy hats, and the world's largest airport therapy animal program. As a result, Denver International Airport is not only a transportation hub but also one of Colorado's most recognizable cultural ambassadors.

As we celebrate this milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to maintaining and enhancing Denver International Airport's role as a gateway to the Rockies and beyond. Its continued growth and innovation will ensure that it remains a vital link in our Nation's transportation network for generations to come.

On this 30th anniversary, we ask our colleagues to join us in recognizing the enduring impact of Denver International Airport and the many individuals who have contributed to its success.

IN MEMORY OF MR. BOBBY BEAGLES

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the life of my good friend, Mr. Bobby Beagles, who passed away on February 16, 2025, and is survived by his loving wife, Vickie, son, Thomas, daughter, Rachel, and his five grandchildren. Bobby was a loyal friend of mine for almost 60 years who dedicated his life to advocating for Florida's agriculture industry. Born on April 6, 1942, in Samson, Alabama, Bobby later moved to Florida, where we shared an alma mater, Maynard Evans High School, and community, Pine Hills, Florida. Following his graduation in 1961, Bobby began his lifetime service to the Central Florida community.

Bobby first served as an area representative for the Communications Workers of America for over 20 years. Representing an area of Florida that stretched from Jacksonville to Tampa, it was through this opportunity that Bobby first developed his passion for the political arena, an opportunity he contributed to his later years of service to Florida's agriculture industry.

From 1993 to 2000, Bobby served as President, Vice President, and Director of the Orange County Cattlemen's Association. It was

during this tenure that he also began serving on the Orange County Agricultural Advisory Board, a committee established as the voice for agriculture within the government of Orange County. Bobby took the lead on several issues but is best known for playing a vital role in the establishment of a vibrant agricultural education program in Orange County Public Schools. Thanks to his leadership, there is now an agriculture program in every middle and high school in Orange County, Florida.

Perhaps Bobby's most well-known role was through his service to the Orange County Farm Bureau. Bobby served in every position within Orange County Bureau and holds the distinct honor of the longest serving President. After his service on the Board of Directors, he continued devoting his time to the Farm Bureau as Executive Director, a position he held for 38 years.

Aside from his professional service, Bobby still devoted his time to growing the agriculture community within Central Florida. Through his cow-calf operation in Christmas, Florida that he established in 1956, serving in multiple capacities with the Central Florida Fair since 1987, serving as Chairman of the Large Animal Evacuation Team to aid livestock during natural disasters and emergencies, and serving on the Orange County Public Schools Career & Technical Education Advisory Board from 2013 to 2022, Bobby dedicated his life to serving Central Florida's agriculture industry.

Bobby was honored for his years of service by receiving many awards and acknowledgements including his induction into the Florida 4-H Hall of Fame, National FFA Honorary American Degree, Florida Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award, Honorary State FFA American Degree, Partners in Education Award, Certificate of Appreciation for Commitment to Orange County Public Schools, and the Jefferson Award. There is no question that Bobby's commitment to agriculture was everlasting, and his legacy will continue to live on. It is hard to imagine Florida agriculture without Bobby. He embodies exactly what agricultural advocacy works to represent.

Throughout his life, Bobby worked tirelessly to grow, advance, and defend Central Florida agriculture, especially through his commitment to supporting youth involved in the industry. He will forever be remembered as a man of honor, of humility, and as one who served his community with the utmost dedication. I am truly thankful for Bobby's friendship and service to the Central Florida community.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN MATHIOWETZ

HON. BRAD FINSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community leader and my good friend, Brian Mathiowetz, who received the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Associated General Contractors last Tuesday.

Brian joined the family business, Mathiowetz Construction, full-time in 1981, working for his father Richard.

Brian quickly proved to be a driving force behind the company's growing success, recognizing early on that good businesses invest in good people.

Across southern Minnesota, Mathiowetz Construction has become a respected name in the industry, relied upon by federal, state, and local partners, as well as commercial and private customers who have trusted Brian and his family business to bring these important projects to completion.

His leadership has grown the now-fourth-generation company into one of southern Minnesota's leading employers. Brian has contributed in many ways to the growth and development of Minnesota's First Congressional District, building many of the roads and bridges that connect us to our families and neighbors.

To me, there is no one more deserving of this Lifetime Achievement Award. I congratulate Brian on earning this accomplishment and thank him for his years of dedication to building a better community for all of us in southern Minnesota.

HONORING REVEREND JESSE HAWKINS FOR HIS 2025 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Reverend Jesse Hawkins, Pastor of the Cathedral of Grace St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, in Aurora, Illinois, for receiving the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board—a well-deserved recognition of his unwavering dedication and impactful leadership.

The Aurora African American Heritage Advisory Board honors individuals who embody excellence, dedication, and a commitment to the betterment of society. Pastor Hawkins is a shining example of these values, having devoted his life to both spiritual and civic leadership.

Reverend Hawkins was appointed to St. John AME Church in October 1982. For decades, he has dedicated himself to uplifting the people of Aurora, advocating for social justice, and fostering a spirit of unity. His work extends beyond the pulpit, touching lives through mentorship, community service, and outreach programs that provide support and empowerment to individuals and families in need.

Throughout his tenure, Reverend Hawkins has guided the congregation in the development of numerous ministries, including the Agape Connection Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to community outreach and support. His commitment to social justice has made the church's lectern a forum for addressing critical issues, with nationally recognized leaders and speakers gracing the congregation.

Reverend Hawkins holds his relationship with God, Christ, and people as the most valuable aspect of his journey. He shares this journey with his beloved wife, Mary Watson Hawkins, and their son, David Alexander. Together, they have built a legacy of faith and service that will endure for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent such an honorable community leader in my district. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Reverend Jesse Hawkins on receiving

this distinguished recognition. His tireless service and devotion to his faith and community are truly commendable.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 36; YEA on Roll Call No. 37; and YEA on Roll Call No. 38.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call No. 36, the vote closed before I was able to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 36.

HONORING THE MINISTERS' COALITION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fauquier County and Vicinity Ministers' Coalition. Since their establishment at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Rectortown, Virginia in 1991 the coalition has focused on faith-based community service, advocacy, and leadership development. The coalition will mark 34 years of faithful service this year on March 8th, which offers us an opportunity to reflect on the Coalition's impact since the time of its founding.

The Coalition was created to unite local ministers in a biblically sound fellowship so they would be well-equipped to provide spiritual leadership throughout the region. The 18 member churches serve as a dynamic force for the Kingdom of God, and their dedication to the principle of unity as described in 1 Corinthians 12:14–20 reflects well on how they approach service and care for the people of Virginia.

The Coalition's commitment to leadership and service in times of challenge such as First Responder Outreach, Homeless and Prison Ministries, and Christian Fellowship Initiatives throughout the region is something I am proud to honor and represent here today. Their initiatives—ranging from community-wide events to spiritual and emotional support in times of crisis—demonstrate an unwavering dedication to the well-being of all residents.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the Fauquier County and Vicinity Ministers' Coalition and to tell you how proud I am of the work they have done to address critical social and spiritual needs as they strive to build bridges and empower communities. I pray for Christ's guidance as they continue to carry out their mission.