

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LYMARÍ D.
MALDONADO AS A DISTIN-
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERIT-
AGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Lymari D. Maldonado holds a bachelor of business administration in management information systems from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez campus, graduating with honors. With over 25 years of experience in software development, she currently serves as the director of enterprise applications at Valencia College. In this leadership role, she oversees major enterprise-wide technology initiatives, mentors both junior and senior developers, and ensures the reliability and performance of critical systems that support the college's mission.

Since joining Valencia College, Lymari has made significant contributions to institutional advancement through her technical expertise and collaborative leadership. She is an active member of the Florida Department of Education's Management Information Systems Advisory Task Force (MISATFOR), where she helps shape statewide data reporting standards. Beyond her technical work, she plays a vital role in fostering campus community. By hosting international students at Valencia, Lymari supports global education initiatives and promotes cross-cultural understanding and inclusion.

Prior to her tenure at Valencia, Lymari served as the lead applications systems analyst at the Orange County Supervisor of Elections, where she designed, developed, and maintained key election systems to ensure secure and accurate electoral processes. As a core member of the Elections Management Team, she reviewed and approved election materials in both English and Spanish and served as a bilingual ballot reader for voters requiring assistance.

Often the only Hispanic woman in her field, Lymari has broken barriers while leading with integrity and professionalism. Her work has even taken her as far as Australia through international project contributions. Despite her many career accomplishments, she considers her most important role to be that of a mother to three wonderful children and a wife to a husband who shares her deep passion for community service. Her story is a vivid testament to the invaluable contributions Hispanic women bring to Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING DR. WILMA J.
HUGHEY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Wilma J. Hughey, a woman whose spiritual influence can be seen throughout Western New York through children of all ages and parishioners beyond the walls of church on Sunday.

Dr. Hughey studied at Elmira College, obtaining her bachelor's and master's degrees in Education. She later obtained a second master's degree in Educational Leadership from SUNY Cortland, as well as earning her Ph.D in Biblical Studies from Newburgh Theological Seminary. Dr. Hughey has been selected as Supervisor of Women for the New York Western Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church in God in Christ, Administrative Facilitator for Licensing and Credentials for the International Department of Women, and appointed as the First Assistant General Supervisor by Presiding Bishop John Drew Sheard.

For nearly three decades, Dr. Hughey served as Principal, completing her distinguished tenure in education and administration. While working with educators and families to ensure students' success, Dr. Hughey held numerous positions in New York State and positions on numerous community boards and committees, providing leadership and guidance, and fostering connections between community members and city officials.

In partnership for more than half a century, Dr. Hughey, alongside her husband, the late Mr. Leo Hughey, faithfully shared her ministry. Bound by love and strengthened by prayer, they organized and established Faith Temple Community Church of God in Christ in Elmira, New York. Dr. and Mr. Hughey's unwavering commitment to "build and expand the Lord's kingdom" is centered on promoting social, cultural, and educational programming for community members throughout Upstate New York.

Today, as we recognize the incredible service of Dr. Wilma J. Hughey, let us not only acknowledge her dedicated career as an educational leader and her steadfast commitment to children in need, but also her dedication to ministry at Faith Temple Community Church of God in Christ, providing a safe space for all to be heard. Dr. Hughey's service is a blessing, and we look forward to many more years of her inspired leadership.

RECOGNIZING IHEARTRADIO
ASHEVILLE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the extraordinary

service of the iHeartRadio Asheville team to the people of Western North Carolina during and after Hurricane Helene.

Under the steady leadership of Brian Hall, and through the tireless efforts of broadcasters such as Mark Starling, Tank Spencer, Eddie and Amanda Foxx, and many others, iHeartRadio Asheville became a lifeline for our mountain communities. Their around-the-clock coverage reunited families, connected neighbors with life-saving resources, and delivered accurate, timely updates when our region faced one of its darkest hours.

Western North Carolina is stronger today because of the courage and dedication of these broadcasters. Their work is a powerful reminder of the vital role that local journalism and community-centered broadcasting play in times of crisis.

On behalf of the people of North Carolina's 11th District, I extend my deepest gratitude to iHeartRadio Asheville for being a steady voice of truth, comfort, and resilience when our communities needed it most.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE
OSCAR MARTINEZ, SR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Judge Oscar O. Martinez, Sr., a distinguished public servant, businessman, and lifelong resident of Laredo, Texas.

Born in 1941 to Arnulfo and Adela Martinez, Judge Martinez graduated from Martin High School, attended Laredo Junior College and Texas A&I University in Kingsville, and proudly served his country in the United States Air Force.

After his honorable discharge in 1969, he returned home, working first in radio sales before venturing into business with Martinez Brothers' Gulf Service Station. He later founded Border Realty, building a career in real estate that reflected his entrepreneurial spirit.

In 1991, Judge Martinez was appointed Justice of the Peace for Webb County Precinct Four, and the voters returned him to office six more times. Over 24 years on the bench, he was a tireless advocate for the youth of our community.

He co-founded the Texas Court Judges Association, directed the South Texas Justice of the Peace and Constable Association, and launched truancy prevention and disciplinary programs such as Parents' Against Crime, graffiti clean-up initiatives, and youth groups with city and county partners.

His partnership with Border Patrol and IBC created the R.E.A.L. Mission Program, which served at-risk students in Laredo and was later expanded across the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso.

Beyond the courtroom, Judge Martinez lived a life of faith and service. An active parishioner of St. Patrick Catholic Church, he was a

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

longtime member of the Knights of Columbus and the St. Patrick's Men's Club.

He devoted over four decades to LULAC serving as District 14 director and president of Council No. 12, co-founding the Señor Internacional program, and creating the "Lo Mejor de lo Nuestro" award.

His dedication to youth and education earned him recognition from schools, civic organizations, and his peers, including honors such as "Tejano Achiever," Rotary's "Service Above Self," the Laredo Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award, and the title of "Tiger Legend."

He also gave 44 years of service to the Laredo International Fair and Exposition, where he was named "Rancher of the Year," and was appointed by Governors Dolph Briscoe, Ann Richards, and George W. Bush to the South Texas Workforce Commission.

He loved ranching at the family's Santa Teresa Ranch in Ramireño, where he spent his spare time.

Judge Martinez retired in 2014, and in recognition of his lifetime of service, Webb County named the Precinct Four Justice Center in his honor.

His legacy will be remembered in the youth programs he created, the civic institutions he strengthened, and the countless lives he touched.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Judge Oscar O. Martinez, Sr.—a devoted husband, father, veteran, public servant, and proud Laredoan who leaves behind a legacy of service above self.

HONORING RAFAEL MONTEIRO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HIS PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Rafael Monteiro is a C-level executive and entrepreneur with extensive experience in business development and management in the media and entertainment industry.

Monteiro also served as an executive at Discovery Networks in Miami and as the general manager of a full-service advertising agency, which serviced the multicultural market. He is also one of the pioneers of pan-regional media advertising and sales consolidation in the U.S.

In 2000, Monteiro joined Terra Networks USA (NASDAQ: TRRA) and helped evangelize digital media and advertising automation in the U.S. Hispanic market. In 2007, Rafael ventured into entrepreneurship and founded Hola Networks and HOD, successfully introducing an automated digital ad network model that enabled Fortune 500 companies to efficiently enhance targeting and diversity in their marketing strategies and streaming content distribution.

Rafael Monteiro also served as the president of the Digital Media Committee at the Advertising Agency Association (AHAA) and as a board member/CDO of Amcor Media.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BUFFALO (NY) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Buffalo, New York Chapter of The Links, Inc., which is proudly celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary. Established in 1945 by Ms. Margaret Russell Hawkins and Ms. Sarah Strickland Scott, The Links, Inc. is a national, not-for-profit civic sorority organization dedicated to serving communities both locally and globally. With nearly 300 chapters across the United States and internationally, The Links, Inc. proudly includes 17,000 members who continuously work together to create a lasting impact on our society.

Organized in Buffalo, New York, on May 26, 1950, as the fourteenth chapter of The Links, Inc., the Buffalo Chapter members have been dedicated to improving the community throughout Western New York. For seven and a half decades, Buffalo Chapter members have focused their support on addressing the critical needs of underserved communities and serving a pivotal role in the fight for racial and social justice.

As they celebrate their seventy-fifth anniversary, providing a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections and further their mission—"Built on Purpose, Bonded by Friendship, Driven by Service"—they honor the legacies of those who came before them, cultivate long-lasting friendships, and inspire future generations to lead with unwavering dedication to their community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the members of the Buffalo, New York Chapter of The Links, Inc. for their outstanding commitment to friendship, service, legacy, and community enrichment. Their work has touched countless lives, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING MRS. AROOSTINE SHESTON AND MR. NAM NGUYEN

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mrs. Aroostine Sheston and her student, Nam Nguyen, of Brooke Point High School in Stafford County, Virginia, for their outstanding participation in the 2025 Young People's Continental Congress.

Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen were among only 56 distinguished teachers and students from across the nation who were selected to participate in this extraordinary program. In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the First Continental Congress, the Carpenters' Company, which preserves and stewards historic Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia, launched this initiative to engage young people and educators around our country to understand the history and meaning of our nation's founding.

In July 2025, delegates from 28 states gathered at Carpenters' Hall, just as the Founders

did to deliberate, debate, and reflect on the ideals of our democracy. Over the course of six days, Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen immersed themselves in historic sites, participated in rigorous discussions, and joined their peers in drafting their own "Declaration of Aspirations." This declaration, written in the spirit of the Continental Congress, speaks powerfully to the hopes and commitments of a new generation of leaders.

The Young People's Continental Congress is a National Partner Program of America250, developed in partnership with National History Day. Delegates, such as Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen, were chosen through a highly competitive process, beginning their work months in advance with virtual seminars and assignments before convening in person. Their dedication to this process reflects the vitality of civic learning and the enduring importance of the democratic experiment they studied.

I am especially proud of Mrs. Sheston and Mr. Nguyen for representing Virginia with skill, passion, and integrity. They embody the best of Brooke Point High School, the Stafford County community, and the Commonwealth. With their commitment to scholarship and civic engagement, they remind us that the legacy of 1776 continues to inspire and guide future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mrs. Aroostine Sheston and Mr. Nam Nguyen for their remarkable achievement and in celebrating the Young People's Continental Congress, which so fittingly carries forward the spirit of America's founding into our nation's 250th anniversary commemoration.

RECOGNIZING THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

HON. PAUL TONKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew, who was recently selected for the revered Templeton Prize by the John Templeton Foundation. The Foundation recognizes pioneers of scientific and spiritual insight for their contributions to human well-being and spiritual prosperity. Previous award recipients include Mother Teresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Nelson Mandela. On behalf of New York's 20th Congressional District, I congratulate His All Holiness Bartholomew on receiving this great honor.

He is the spiritual leader, and the Primus inter Pares—First among Equals—of Orthodox Christianity worldwide, a Church of 300 million people. Named as one of the world's most influential people by Time Magazine, His All Holiness is an exemplary leader who seeks to build bridges across different religions. He works tirelessly to bring together Christians, Jews, and Muslims for the purpose of advancing greater cooperation and mutual understanding. An advocate for peace, His All Holiness has called for an end to the hostilities between Ukraine and Russia.

He is known worldwide as the "Green Patriarch" as he makes conscious efforts to support clean air legislation. I feel grateful that His

All Holiness uses his authority to raise environmental awareness, and I'm proud to stand beside him to create sustainable future together. On behalf of my constituents and my colleagues here in Washington, I thank His All Holiness for his bravery, guidance, and testimony. I hope that his visit will bring us together in the spirit of service and encourage us to live with humility, fairness, and compassion.

CONGRATULATING MS. MARYAM AZARION ON HER RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant. Ms. Maryam Azarion has given over 26 years of her career to serving our Nation's veterans and advancing scientific innovation across the federal government.

Maryam began her career as a microbiologist and inventor before finding her way to the law and federal service. She has dedicated her professional life to making government a force for good, one that drives progress and innovation and provides exceptional care to our Nation's veterans.

For nearly 20 years at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Maryam brought her expertise in science and the law to the VA's senior leadership. As a Staff Attorney for the VA's Office of General Counsel, Maryam was in charge of giving legal advice about research agreements, intellectual property licensing and smart phone application submissions.

After her first five years at the VA, Maryam saw an emerging need to create a legal team devoted to health research and innovation. Maryam was entrusted with the responsibility of nurturing the VA's first Specialty Team Advising Research (STAR), which she led with distinction from 2012 until her retirement this year. Her leadership at STAR has improved the quality of life for our Nation's veterans, spurred health care business development and encouraged innovation across our government.

Medical innovations are only lifesaving and life-changing if new technology and treatments can reach hospitals and clinics and if the veterans who need care can afford them. Maryam's vision and expertise helped facilitate the transfer of technologies developed within federal agencies to public, private and non-profit partners.

Maryam developed her expertise in technology transfer after beginning her career as a microbiologist and researcher at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases. Discovering a passion for technology transfer and a talent for the intersection of science and the law, she lent her expertise to the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and the Naval Research Laboratory.

A Marylander to her bones, Maryam prepared for this remarkable career at the Free State's world class colleges and universities. She's earned degrees at the University of Maryland-College Park, Hood College, and the

University of Baltimore School of Law. On behalf of a grateful Nation and the residents of Maryland's beautiful 8th District, I wish Maryam Azarion nothing but the best as she begins a new chapter in her life after her decades of federal service.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COLORED MUSICIANS CLUB

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Colored Musicians Club, a historic beacon of light and entertainment in Buffalo, New York. As we honor this momentous occasion, may we reflect on the club's incredible history, its unwavering commitment to spreading African-American musical culture, and the transformative impact it has had on the lives of countless individuals throughout Western New York and across the globe.

Chartered on May 14, 1935, the Colored Musicians Club incorporated space for musicians to practice, rehearse and perform. The club, separate from their union, Local 533, gave members the opportunity to have a place to call their own in Buffalo, New York. Nearly six and half decades later, the Colored Musicians Club was designated a preservation site, and today, remains as the only operating African-American musicians club within the United States.

As the organization celebrates its ninetieth anniversary, providing a valuable opportunity to strengthen connections and further their mission "to stimulate its members to greater musical expression; to encourage and develop a fuller appreciation of music on the part of its members and the public; and generally to unite its members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding," they honor the legacies of members who came before them, cultivate long-lasting friendships, and inspire future generations of musicians to play and lead with unwavering dedication to their craft; ensuring that the spirit of music lives on through every note they play.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate ninety years of African-American musical culture, let us honor the countless musicians and guests who have been touched by the musical selections of those who performed. Congratulations to the Colored Musicians Club on this significant milestone. Their unwavering dedication to community members and visitors throughout Western New York will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING ISRAEL MARTIN AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Israel Martin is originally from Cuba, but now lives and serves

in the United States. He lives with his wife, Dody, with whom he has been married for 28 years. They have three children: Daniel, Claudia, and Helem. All three are married, and they have two granddaughters who are half-Cuban and half-Venezuelan, as well as one grandson who is also half-Cuban and half-Venezuelan.

In Cuba, Israel served as a pastor, Christian leader, and educator. He was the academic dean of the Baptist Theological Seminary of Havana, the oldest Evangelical seminary in the country, and founder and president of the Cuban School of Evangelical Studies (ECETE), the last seminary established in Cuba that was legally recognized. In the United States, he serves as pastor of the Hispanic Ministry of First Baptist Orlando, a mega-church of the Southern Baptist Convention, and as president of the Baptist University of Florida in Spanish. He also teaches doctoral-level classes at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Dallas Theological Seminary, and Florida Christian University.

Israel obtained an engineering degree from ISPJAE in Havana and a bachelor's degree in theology and pastoral ministry from the Baptist Theological Seminary of Havana. He also pursued master's studies in Cuba and Guatemala. Finally, he is currently working on the dissertation phase of his third doctorate, a Ph.D. in Bible Exposition at Liberty University. Previously, he had obtained a Ph.D. in Theological Education at SETECA and a D.Min. in Hispanic Ministry Leadership at DTS.

Israel's favorite hobbies are reading and watching good movies. He also enjoys spending time with his family and home life.

HONORING JACKIE THOMAS, ALYSSA STYLES, AND MAKAYLA THOMAS

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yancey County residents Jackie Thomas, Alyssa Styles, and Makayla Thomas for their extraordinary service and selfless dedication in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

When disaster struck and resources were scarce, Jackie, Director of Yancey County Senior Center stepped forward. Under his leadership, the Senior Center became a hub for first responders working around the clock across the county. Recognizing the urgent need, Jackie organized meal preparation and distribution directly from the center, ensuring that our first responders had the strength and sustenance to continue their lifesaving work.

In the days that followed, Makayla and Alyssa arrived at the Senior Center seeking supplies. Seeing the effort underway, they immediately volunteered to help. Together, this small but determined team worked 18-hour days preparing meals, coordinating supplies, and supporting both first responders and neighbors in need. Their service was essential to the emergency response and serves as a shining example of the resilience and generosity that defines Yancey County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deep gratitude to Jackie,

Makayla, and Alyssa for their leadership, compassion, and sacrifice. Their commitment to service reflects the strength of Yancey County and all of Western North Carolina. In honoring these remarkable individuals today, we also celebrate the enduring spirit of resilience that continues to sustain and strengthen our mountain communities.

HONORING ERNESTO NIETO,
FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL
HISPANIC INSTITUTE, ON THE
OCCASION OF HIS 85TH BIRTH-
DAY

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a visionary leader whose life's work has left an indelible mark on the United States, Latin America, and the world, Mr. Ernesto Nieto, founder and president of the National Hispanic Institute (NHI). On the occasion of his 85th birthday, we commemorate not only the years of his extraordinary life, but also the enduring legacy he has forged for generations to come.

Son of civic activists and Methodist church leaders, Santos and Esther Nieto, Ernesto was born on October 6, 1940, in Houston, Texas. He and his brothers, Albert and Roy, grew up confronting racial discrimination firsthand, experiences that fueled his determination to join the civil rights movement and to create new pathways of opportunity for the Latino community. A proud graduate of Southwestern University, a talented basketball player ranking 23rd leading scorer in the nation, along with further graduate studies at the University of Houston, Mr. Nieto combined academic rigor with an unwavering commitment to being a cultivator of human potential, a steward of possibility, and a teacher of hope. His life reminds us that the truest measure of leadership is not in what we accumulate for ourselves, but in what we awaken in others.

In 1979, guided by that bold vision, Mr. Nieto founded the National Hispanic Institute to cultivate young Latino leaders. At a time when too many narratives focused only on deficits, Mr. Nieto charted a different course—one of possibility, strength, and aspiration. Under his leadership, NHI has engaged over 100,000 high-achieving students from across the United States and Latin America, partnering with more than 120 institutions of higher education.

Through NHI, he gave students the stage to discover their gifts, the structure to practice leadership, and the conviction to see themselves as architects of their communities' future. While NHI's roots are proudly grounded in the Latino community, its reach has expanded to a hemispheric scope. Today, NHI engages youth of every cultural background—from Nigerian American and Indian American families to young leaders across the Americas—all united by the common purpose of civic engagement, community life, and the pursuit of a stronger future.

For Mr. Nieto, leadership is not an abstract concept but a lived experience of community, family, and heritage. His philosophy is rooted in respect for the long history and traditions of

Latino leadership and in building systems that identify, nurture, and amplify the talents of young people. His groundbreaking book *Third Reality: Crafting a 21st Century Latino Agenda* captured this vision, underscoring the vital importance of cultivating leaders who embrace their cultural identity as an asset to American society and to the world.

Over the decades, Mr. Nieto's leadership has been recognized through countless honors. He has received the Distinguished Alumnus Award of Southwestern University, the Human Relations Award from the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, and the Splete Award for Civil Rights from the National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities. He has been named a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Scholar, honored with the First Tee Award, and awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from both Texas Wesleyan University and Austin College. Yet the deepest proof of his legacy lies not in titles or accolades, but in the thousands of NHI alumni now serving as public servants, educators, business leaders, and advocates across the globe.

Together with his co-founder and wife, Gloria De León, the lessons from his parents and supported by his children, Nicole, Roy, Marc and Chris, his extended De León family, and his beloved NHI familia, Ernesto Nieto has built an institution that does not merely train leaders but transforms futures. His impact resonates in classrooms and boardrooms, in communities from the Rio Grande Valley to Puerto Rico, from Chicago to Mexico City, and across continents—reminding us that the strength of a nation, and indeed the world, rests on the gifts of its people.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Ernesto Nieto's 85th birthday, we recognize a man whose vision and persistence created not just an organization, but a movement. His life affirms that when communities invest in their youth, they invest in their future. For generations to come, the National Hispanic Institute will stand as a living testament to his belief that Latino communities are assets to be celebrated and empowered.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Ernesto Nieto. May his example continue to inspire leaders for generations, and may his life's work remind us all of the enduring power of vision, faith, and relentless commitment to awakening the leaders already within us, and among us.

WELCOMING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW TO WASHINGTON,
D.C.

HON. JEFF HURD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to Washington, D.C.—the spiritual leader and *Primus inter Pares* (First among Equals) of more than 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. For decades, he has been a tireless voice for religious freedom, and as the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in two millennia of Christian

history, he stands as a symbol of faith and resolve. His visit comes as he receives the distinguished Templeton Prize in New York, an honor once bestowed on Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Nelson Mandela—leaders whose lives have testified to the power of faith to transcend borders.

As a Catholic, I am deeply moved by the ties between our churches. His All-Holiness has met with Popes across generations, working to strengthen bonds of unity and to advance the cause of peace. Together, they have spoken with one voice: to defend the weak, serve those in need, and pursue reconciliation among nations. Patriarch Bartholomew is also a leading figure in interfaith dialogue among Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. His presence here reminds us that faith has a vital role to play in protecting liberty and human dignity.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to welcome him to Washington and to thank him for his steadfast leadership in advancing religious freedom around the world.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS
CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and to highlight two bipartisan bills, the Give Kids a Chance Act and the BRAIN Act, that will help save lives. Cancer is a disease which affects nearly every household and community around the country, and nowhere is it more heartbreaking than when it affects our children.

This month marks an opportunity to raise awareness for childhood cancer and support research for new treatment and therapy avenues. Just this year alone, nearly 10,000 children will be diagnosed with pediatric cancer. This is an issue that could not be more important and pressing.

The Give Kids a Chance Act removes many of the hurdles and barriers to researching treatments for rare pediatric diseases. It restores FDA incentives through the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher Program, encouraging companies to develop drugs for rare childhood diseases. The PRV program has already helped develop new treatments for 200,000 patients spanning nearly 50 rare diseases. Muscular dystrophy, sickle cell, and tropical diseases have all seen medical breakthroughs during this program.

Give Kids a Chance will also reauthorize the FDA to take action against drug sponsors that fail to comply with pediatric study requirements. Thus, ensuring that patients get the latest and best treatments that they require. As Dr. Benjamin Ebert, President of Dana-Faber, said, "sustained federal investment is needed to ensure that every child has the opportunity for a life free from disease." This bill would cement that investment and sustain our leadership in biotechnology, while costing the taxpayer nothing.

Similarly, the BRAIN Act is another common-sense, bipartisan piece of legislation that

will advance pediatric care. Recently, brain cancer has passed leukemia as the leading cause of cancer-related deaths of pediatric patients. While the number of cases is growing, survival rates have remained stagnant for 45 years. This needs to change.

The BRAIN Act will increase awareness for clinical trials, invest funding into glioblastoma therapeutics and cellular immunotherapy research, and authorize the FDA to ensure brain tumor patient access to clinical trials. Many aggressive pediatric cases have a survival rate of less than the average school year. We have the responsibility and opportunity to try and change that. Echoing what David Arons, of the National Brain Tumor Society, stated, “now is the time to build on government support for research and access to care for cancer patients.”

During this Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues to support these two bipartisan bills and give pediatric patients, across the country, a better chance to fight and survive.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States of America as he accepts the prestigious and well-deserved Templeton Prize, one of the world's most prestigious awards in Religion and Science.

On behalf of the thousands of Greek Orthodox constituents who call the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District home and the more than 300 million followers worldwide, it is an honor to host the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the Church's history and a humbling opportunity to say thank you for his efforts on behalf of the entire human family. Since being elevated to *primus inter pares* (first among equals) in 1991, he has worked tirelessly to promote religious freedom and human rights, foster cooperation and understanding among all people of faith, convene peace conferences around the globe, and call all of us to care for and preserve the environment we all share and will pass to our children and our children's children. His personal attention and institutional leadership to address issues that transcend borders or religious affiliation have led him being hailed as “The Bridge Builder”, “The Patriarch of Peace”, and the “Green Patriarch.”

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's words and deeds have been in pursuit of justice, love, and reconciliation. And his lifetime of service and leadership has placed him among the illustrious company of previous Templeton Prize honorees—The Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and the first ever recipient, Mother Teresa.

As His All-Holiness reminds us, “We have it in our power either to increase the hurt inflicted on our world or to contribute toward its healing. The choice is ours.” and each day he rises and chooses serve, to lead, to guide, to empower, and to divine God's grace into heal-

ing. And it is my humbling honor to note for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the unique gift of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's leadership and spiritual guidance and for his innumerable contributions to peace and harmony during his visit to the United States.

RECOGNIZING MR. TIMOTHY KENNEDY AND MRS. ELLEN KENNEDY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Timothy Kennedy and Mrs. Ellen Kennedy, a couple whose influence can be seen and heard throughout Western New York by audience members of Buffalo Opera Unlimited.

Mr. Kennedy studied Voice at the Academy of Music, and later, in furtherance of his education, obtained a Master's Degree in Music and Theater from SUNY Buffalo. Mr. Kennedy's career has been a testament to his love of music, teaching students at each education level the art of music. Mr. Kennedy has also acted and served in the role of theater director at the African American Cultural Center, leading local church and community choirs. Mr. Kennedy is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Buffalo Unlimited Opera, conducting a majority of productions for nearly four decades.

Mrs. Kennedy studied at SUNY Buffalo, obtaining a Master's Degree in Social Work, furthering her interest in child welfare advocacy and public policy. Mrs. Kennedy has served in the role of Associate Professor of Social Work and as chair of SUNY Buffalo State's Social Work Department. She co-founded Citizen Action of Western New York and has been a longtime member of the Coalition of Economic Justice. For nearly four decades, Mrs. Kennedy has acted as the Treasurer and Board Member of Buffalo Opera Unlimited.

Today, as we recognize the incredible service of Mr. Timothy Kennedy and Mrs. Ellen Kennedy, let us not only acknowledge their dedicated career as educational leaders and their steadfast commitment to the performance arts, but also their service to the Buffalo Opera Unlimited, providing a safe space for all to be seen and heard. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy's leadership is a masterclass in passion and artistry, and their service will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come. We are all the better for it.

HONORING CRISTINA MERCADO ACEVEDO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Cristina Mercado Acevedo is an interdisciplinary-trained professional with a master's in healthcare administration and over 20 years of community service involvement. She serves as the chief for

the Orlando VA Healthcare System's Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Office, where she is responsible for volunteer services, philanthropic engagement, and partnership solutions with community stakeholders. The service's motto, “What's Your Why?” resonates heavily with her, and she uses it as a framework in building the program.

Ms. Mercado Acevedo began her VA career at the Orlando VA in 2012 as a Pathways intern. In 2014, she became the program support assistant for the Public Affairs Office, handling internal and external communications. She managed the social media accounts and worked to increase awareness and develop connections with veterans and the community. Ms. Mercado Acevedo served on the outreach committee that planned the VA's annual “Welcome Home” events. These family-friendly events provided access to emergent resources, employment opportunities, and information on both VA and community programs. During this time, she earned her Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and graduated from the VISN 8 Stepping with PRIDE Leadership Development Program.

Ms. Mercado Acevedo used these experiences to create one of the most robust CDCE programs in the Nation, not only offering veterans immediate assistance with emergent care items and transportation, but also sponsoring innovative projects aimed at improving veteran healthcare and experiences. Notable efforts include the partnership developed to combat food insecurity, which established the monthly Veterans Food Distribution event that serves around 300 veterans.

Ms. Mercado Acevedo continues to work to motivate the community to assist the VA in its mission to serve America's heroes. Her “why” is not only to help those who may not otherwise receive the help they need, but also to inspire others to do the same.

HONORING JOHN J. MEYERS, III

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John J. Meyers, III, a United States Navy veteran who passed away on September 14, 2025, at the age of 87 in Sarasota, Florida.

Born on September 3, 1938, in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Meyers served his country with honor as a naval aviator. He completed his flight training in Pensacola, Florida, before joining VS-34 Squadron aboard the USS Essex. From 1962 to 1965, he served with distinction and became an instructor pilot at Naval Air Station Meridian in Meridian, Mississippi. His dedication to duty demonstrated the highest traditions of excellence of the United States Navy.

Following his military career, Mr. Meyers continued to make an impact in both aviation and financial services, and he retired as a respected financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Sarasota. Beyond his accomplishments, he always remained an active and valued member of his community. Known for his humor, storytelling, and generosity of spirit, he uplifted countless individuals through mentorship, writing, and his presence on the Legacy Bike Trails of Sarasota.

Mr. Meyers embodied duty, honor, and service throughout his whole life—first in uniform, and later, as a civilian dedicated to his family, career, and community. His legacy endures through every life he touched and the example he set of quiet strength and devotion to others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the remarkable life of John J. Myers, III, and in extending our gratitude for his service to our Nation and his contributions to his community.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MAX L. MILLER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and the importance of saving lives from Prostate Cancer through awareness, education, and effective treatment for men's health in our Nation. Prostate Cancer is one of the most common cancers among men. As such, efforts that increase awareness of early detection, treatment, survival, and long-term health are vital.

As the second leading cause of cancer death in men, every 15 minutes a man dies from Prostate Cancer. More than 35,000 patients are projected to lose their lives to this disease in 2025 alone. However, early detection through regular screenings can significantly improve treatment outcomes and quality of life.

When detected in its early stages, Prostate Cancer is highly treatable, and patients have a wider range of options due to state-of-the-art innovations. The relative 5-year survival rate for Prostate Cancer diagnosed in its earliest stages is over 99 percent. Today, there are more than 3.3 million prostate cancer survivors.

However, Prostate Cancer incidence is increasing in the U.S.—after a period of decline, driven primarily by a rise in advanced-stage and distant-stage diagnoses—posing serious threats to the health of men in our Nation. The 5-year survival rate for advanced or metastatic prostate cancer drops to 37 percent—though early detection and treatment can prevent the cancer from spreading to other body organs, significantly improving long-term survival rates.

We must also recognize the dedicated healthcare professionals, as well as world-renowned expertise, seeking effective treatments of Prostate Cancer and other forms of Cancer, both in my congressional district in Northeast Ohio and throughout the Nation. Innovation in medical technology leads to better outcomes and a higher value of overall care. Broad advancements, including state-of-the-art non-invasive precision treatments, among others, have the capacity to revolutionize patient care and improve health outcomes.

It is sobering that one in eight men is diagnosed in their lifetime. Prostate Cancer impacts men from all walks of life, from urban centers to rural communities across America. While particularly affecting underserved populations, its reach touches even those in the highest profiles of public life, even those in this body.

Despite advancements in early detection and treatment, Prostate Cancer continues to exact a devastating toll on our nation, as a man is diagnosed with Prostate Cancer every two minutes in America. Therefore, the critical nature of saving lives from Prostate Cancer through awareness, education, and support is paramount.

I applaud H. Res. 675, recognizing September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, for which I am a cosponsor, and thank my colleagues for these efforts. More importantly, I commend those who have been touched by this devastating disease, including Tim Hecker in my home state of Ohio, as well as local cancer advocates, for their tireless commitment. Our Nation must lead the way in ending the devastating impacts of Prostate Cancer—with an urgent focus on breaking barriers for long-term health and survival for men in the United States.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OSWALD'S PHARMACY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oswald's Pharmacy as they celebrate their remarkable 150th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1875, Oswald's Pharmacy has been one of Naperville's oldest continually family-run businesses and the longest running family pharmacy in business. Oswald's is a beloved establishment in Naperville and beyond due to its commitment to personalized care and reinvesting in the local community.

To address the evolving needs of the community it serves, Oswald's Pharmacy has expanded its services beyond just filling prescriptions to include vaccinations and health consultations. During times of crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Oswald's remained a vital resource for Naperville residents, providing critical care and information when it was needed most. As we mark this incredible milestone, it is important to honor the Oswald family for their unwavering commitment to excellence and community service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Oswald's Pharmacy as they celebrate their 150th anniversary. Their longstanding history in Naperville is a testament to their commitment to service, community, and resilience. I wish Oswald's Pharmacy continued success for generations to come.

HONORING NATHAN CURLEE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless service of line apprentice, Nathan Curlee of Buncombe County.

As a line apprentice, Mr. Curlee is typically responsible for assisting linemen in the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical power systems; however, after the devastating

damage left in the wake of Hurricane Helene, Mr. Curlee took on additional responsibilities to restore power to Western North Carolina. Mr. Curlee, in collaboration with Journey Lineman Matt Martinka, became aware that the Veteran Affairs (VA) Hospital of Asheville needed restored power. Mr. Curlee and Mr. Martinka hiked 1.5 miles through the mountainous terrain of Western North Carolina to analyze the problems and restore power to the VA Hospital.

Mr. Curlee viewed restoring power to the VA Hospital as his way of giving back to the veterans for their years of service to our country. The men hiked through the dangerous terrain, remaining determined to restore power to the veterans of Buncombe County. In addition to Nathan Curlee's electrical expertise, his integrity, service, and humble attitude deserve the recognition and applause of Western North Carolina and the United States.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank Nathan Curlee for his service to Duke Energy customers. I especially commend his exceptional efforts in restoring power to the veterans of Asheville, North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

HONORING ARNALDO OLIVERAS AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Arnaldo Oliveras is the founder and president of 180 Commercial Real Estate Advisors, a technology-forward brokerage and consultancy headquartered in Orlando. Licensed in Florida and equipped with an MBA in global management, he has devoted more than two decades to catalyzing job growth and revitalizing commercial corridors across the State—most notably within Florida's Ninth Congressional District, which includes Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Lake Nona, and south Orlando.

Through 180 Commercial Real Estate Advisors, Mr. Oliveras has directed over \$600 million in retail and mixed-use transactions, ushering both national brands and emerging concepts into Central Florida while pioneering lease structures that maximize landlord value and tenant viability. His firm's concierge platform—integrating tenant and landlord representation, market analytics, project coordination, and post-occupancy advisory—has become a blueprint for sustainable development along the Osceola Parkway and U.S. 192 corridors, generating hundreds of local jobs and broadening consumer amenities for district residents. Mindful that thriving main streets anchor healthy economies, he also advises small retailers and family-owned enterprises on fair-lease negotiations and expansion strategies, ensuring small businesses share in the region's growth.

A passionate civic leader, Mr. Oliveras serves as the 2026 chair of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, championing entrepreneurship programs that directly benefit the Ninth District's vibrant business community. Oliveras also sits on the Executive Board at the Winter Park Chamber of

Commerce and the board of Opera Orlando and as vice-chair for the Rollins Museum of Art board, leveraging arts advocacy to boost cultural tourism and business revenue throughout Central Florida.

Renowned for disciplined optimism and a consultative style, Mr. Oliveras continues to align private-sector innovation with public priorities, advancing a more prosperous and resilient Central Florida.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who is serving as the two hundred and seventieth Archbishop of Constantinople, New Roman and Ecumenical Patriarch, and to welcome him to our Nation's Capital of Washington, D.C. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's life is a testament to his unwavering commitment as a public servant and spiritual leader of more than three hundred million Orthodox Christians throughout the globe.

Born Demetrios Archontonis on February 29, 1940, on the Island of Imvros (Gökçeada, Turkey) to Christios and Meropi Archontonis, from an early age, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has viewed the protection and preservation of the environment as a deeply spiritual responsibility. In 1961, following his studies at Imvros and Constantinople, he enrolled at the renowned Theological School of Halki. He was ordained to the Holy Diaconate on August 13, 1961, and given the name Bartholomew at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Imvros by his Elder, the then-Metropolitan of Imvros and Tenedos.

On October 19, 1969, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was ordained to the Holy Priesthood, and later elected Ecumenical Patriarch in 1972 as its director. On Christmas Day, 1973, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was consecrated as bishop and remained as head of the Personal Patriarchal Office until his enthronement as the Metropolitan of Chalcedon on January 14, 1990, and later unanimously elected as Archbishop of Constantinople, New Rome on October 2, 1991.

For more than three decades, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew has traveled throughout the world, addressing global audiences and fostering spiritual connections. His leadership and theological background provide him with a unique perspective and inspire the values of unity, inclusivity, and mutual respect.

Mr. Speaker, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's spiritual leadership is a testament to his dedication to faith and public service, which has touched countless lives and made a profound impact throughout the globe. His work continues to inspire us all to embrace our shared heritage, stand up for the causes that matter, and celebrate the power of spiritual connection. His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's commitment to fostering stronger global connections reminds

us of the importance of service, community, and the bonds that unite us across borders, and we are all better for it.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF STANLEY D. MOORE, SR.

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor celebrate the life and legacy of one of America's greatest civil servants, Mr. Stanley D. Moore, Sr. This September, Stanley will turn 90 years old and gather to celebrate the occasion with his family and friends in my hometown of Chicago.

Stanley's career with the Federal Government began in 1956 and within 4 years, he started what would be a lifelong career with the U.S. Census Bureau. While working as a systems analyst for the Bureau, Stanley continually displayed a dedication and work ethic that few people can match.

His work led him to be continually promoted until he was appointed as the regional director of the Bureau's Chicago Regional Office. In this position, he was responsible for overseeing all Census operations in the States of Arkansas, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

Stanley developed the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing system (TIGER) and the Reaching Every Single Person on the Nation's Decennial (Operation RESPOND) program. His work on these matters revolutionized Census operations and continue to serve as part of the bedrock of Census operations to this day.

His work led him to receive accolades, including the Bronze Medal for Superior Service, the Silver Medal Award for Meritorious Service, and the Gold Medal Award for Exceptional Service. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Hammer Award for National Partnership for Reinventing Government.

In addition to his meritorious government service, Stanley was a powerful advocate for equality and justice throughout Chicago. In the 1970s, Stanley was instrumental in the desegregation of Chicago housing. His 4-year long legal battle against racial discrimination culminated in his success in court and the purchase of a new home in the Beverly community. Through his search for justice and equality, Stanley led the way for countless others to continue to work against the evils of segregation.

I would like to express my gratitude to Stanley for his service and ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating his 90th birthday.

HONORING GENO SHELTON'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN ENTERTAINMENT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career of Geno Shelton, a pioneering promoter, radio personality, and

cultural visionary who has shaped the sound and soul of Indianapolis for 40 years.

Since arriving in Indianapolis in 1985 to join the team at WTLC-FM, Geno Shelton has been a driving force behind the city's live music and comedy scenes. From his early days spinning records on the airwaves to launching some of our city's most memorable concert series, Geno has used his platform to spotlight talent, uplift local artists, and bring world-class entertainment to Indianapolis.

His contributions are as historic as they are heartfelt. He hosted the now-legendary "Hots" dance parties at the Walker Theatre, brought jazz to the Vogue, and opened doors for Black comedians through the "Hip Hop Comedy Shop" series. Over the years, his stages have featured some of the biggest names in music and comedy. Yet Geno has always made it a priority to showcase homegrown talent and create meaningful opportunities for local artists to shine. His approach has not only launched careers, but also strengthened the creative fabric of our city.

This year, Geno celebrates his 40th anniversary with a two-night showcase at Clowes Memorial Hall, featuring both Funk Fest and Comedy Jam during Circle City Classic weekend. Rather than simply marking a personal milestone, he is using this moment to offer a heartfelt thank-you to the community that has supported him every step of the way.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Geno Shelton for his outstanding contributions to arts and culture in Indianapolis. His vision, perseverance, and generosity have enriched our city and empowered generations of entertainers.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CHOSIN RESERVOIR

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir and recognize the heroic veterans of the Chosin Few.

Seventy-five years ago, in the bitter winter of 1950, 30,000 United Nations forces, most of them United States Marines, were surrounded by more than 120,000 Chinese troops near the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. Facing the freezing conditions, overwhelming odds, and heavy casualties, these men executed a successful fighting retreat to the port of Hungnam. In doing so, these heroes evacuated over 100,000 troops and civilians, through unyielding courage, sacrifice, and determination.

The Battle of Chosin Reservoir is remembered not only for the extreme conditions that were faced, but more importantly the courage of those who fought. Over the course of 14 days, 17 Medals of Honor and 78 Service Cross Medals were awarded to these men for their actions in combat.

Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring the Chosin Few and in recognizing the enduring legacy of courage, sacrifice, and freedom that their service represents.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF LIEUTENANT ROBERT JOHN
HEANEY

HON. APRIL McCLAIN DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Robert John Heaney was born on September 24, 1975, in Parlin, New Jersey. He later moved with his family to Derwood, Maryland, where he graduated from Colonel Zadok Magruder High School in 1993. From a young age, Robert demonstrated a strong commitment to service, a trait that would guide the course of his life and career.

On October 10, 2000, he joined the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. Following the successful completion of his recruit training, he was assigned to Engine Company 14 in the Fort Totten area of Washington, D.C., in February 2001. Over the next two decades, he served with distinction in some of the department's most challenging and demanding assignments.

Rob was a proud and dedicated member of the Trinidad firehouse, known as the "House of Pain," a firehouse which was repeatedly recognized as the busiest in the entire United States. It was there that he earned a reputation for courage, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to those he served alongside. He later rose to the rank of Lieutenant and was assigned to Rescue Squad 2, one of the most elite companies within the department.

In 2023, Lieutenant Heaney was diagnosed with bladder cancer, a condition now recognized as an occupational illness associated with the fire service. Despite his diagnosis, he continued to show up with determination and resolve, remaining steadfast in his dedication to the job and his colleagues. On January 22, 2025, at the age of 49, he passed away from occupational cancer. His death was formally recognized as a line-of-duty death.

Lieutenant Heaney is survived by his loving wife, Beth Heaney, and their two children, Molly and Finn. He also leaves behind his father, Robert Heaney Sr., his brother Sean, and his sister, Kellie.

Lieutenant Robert John Heaney's legacy is one of service, sacrifice, and honor. His memory lives on through his family, his colleagues, and the countless lives he touched throughout his career. It is an honor to enter Lieutenant Heaney's legacy in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I extend my deepest gratitude for his devotion to others.

HONORING REV. DR. JEANETTE
SALGUERO AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Rev. Dr. Jeanette Salguero is a pastor, educator, and nonprofit leader whose work has transformed Florida's Ninth Congressional District. As co-lead pastor

of The Gathering Place Church in Orlando, she has built a thriving, multicultural congregation committed to restoring lives, families, the city, and the world. She is co-leading the creation of a Dream Center Campus in Central Florida, designed to provide comprehensive services for families in need. Dr. Salguero is the creator of the Oikonomia Initiative, a groundbreaking program that equips pastors and nonprofit leaders with financial literacy, debt-relief resources, and leadership excellence funds. Through this initiative, Central Florida pastors and leaders have been empowered to pay down personal debt, stabilize their finances, and strengthen their capacity to serve their communities.

She also founded the Avance Initiative, which brings together Latino leaders and entrepreneurs for capacity development, strengthening their organizational infrastructures and expanding their community impact. As executive director of the Carrión Hispanic Leadership Center at Southeastern University, Dr. Salguero has helped expand access to affordable, high-quality education for over 200 Latino students.

She also serves as co-founder and vice president of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC), headquartered in the district, where she mobilizes a national network of over 3,000 leaders around issues such as poverty alleviation, immigration, and educational equity. With a pastoral heart and prophetic vision, Dr. Salguero has secured multi-million-dollar philanthropic investments, built bridges across sectors, and brought national visibility to Florida's Ninth District as a model for church-based and nonprofit-led community transformation.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ERIE CANAL
AND THE 2025 WORLD CANALS
CONFERENCE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 2025 World Canals Conference, being held in Buffalo, New York, where the opening of the Erie Canal changed the world. This is an event where experts and enthusiasts from all over the globe share innovative practices related to economic and community development, waterway management, tourism, and historic preservation along inland waterways.

For decades, the World Canals Conference has brought together the brightest minds working on inland waterways to share ideas and inspiration for the future of their field of work. Established in 1990, the World Canals Conference plays an important role in highlighting how canals and inland waterways contribute to cultural and historical preservation, and environmental revitalization.

Hosted this year in the City of Buffalo, this unique conference will see community members and visitors gather at the Erie Canal, the first all-water link between the Atlantic Ocean and the upper Great Lakes. The Erie Canal serves as a testament to the vision of the Empire State and those who imagined a narrow ribbon of waterway, carved through nearly four

hundred miles of forests and wetlands that transformed our state and nation, carrying food and materials from the heart of North America to the global market.

This week, we celebrate the World Canals Conference and its steadfast commitment to commerce and water management across the globe. May this week continue to inspire future generations to uphold historical preservation and remind us to work together for a stronger, more connected world.

THANKING ALEKSI KNEPP FOR
HER SERVICE TO ILLINOIS' 13TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of and express my deep gratitude for my agriculture policy advisor, Aleks Knepp, for her outstanding service to my office over the past 2½ years.

Since joining my team in 2023 as legislative assistant, Aleks has been entrusted with a wide portfolio of issues, but her leadership on agriculture and education policy has made a lasting mark on my office and Illinois' 13th district. In these roles, she has not only proved invaluable to me and my staff but has also served as a direct voice for my constituents in Illinois' 13th district.

Aleks has been at the center of some of the most important legislative and district activities I have undertaken. She has guided my office through farm bill negotiations and markups, ensured that our team was well-prepared for the annual Farm Progress Show, and represented my office with diligence and skill at countless other hearings, briefings, and stakeholder meetings. Regardless of what policy issue she was tasked with solving, Aleks approached every task with a sense of dedication, professionalism, and passion for public service.

As the daughter of central Illinois farmers, Aleks brings to her role not only technical expertise but also lived experience. She understands first-hand the challenges faced by family farmers and rural communities across Illinois. She has carried that perspective into this role, always keeping in mind the voices of those who are too often left out of debates in Washington.

Outside of her incredible policy contributions, Aleks has been an integral member of our team, helping to build a culture of collaboration, camaraderie, and hard work.

While I am saddened to see Aleks depart from my staff, I am so proud that she will be continuing her service to the public on the House Committee on Agriculture, where she will have the opportunity to work on behalf of growers and producers from across the Nation.

I want to once again thank Aleks Knepp for her service to my office and my constituents. While she will be missed in my office, I look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role, and I know that she has a bright future ahead of her in public service.

HONORING TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, New Jersey.

Since its founding in 1950, Temple Emanu-El has been committed to embracing innovation and creativity in the practice of Jewish life and support of the Jewish community. The congregation works to create a space for each member to find the expression of Judaism that makes them feel connected, included, and seen within their community. Temple Emanu-El was founded by 43 Westfield Jewish families of varying Jewish backgrounds who came together to create their own religious home. At this time, Jewish individuals could not purchase land in much of Westfield, and, despite local residents circulating petitions against the founding of a synagogue, the founders of Temple Emanu-El remained resilient and persevered.

Through traditional Jewish liturgy with Reform Jewish prayer and practice, Temple Emanu-El established a one-of-a-kind expression of Reform Judaism. Now comprised of 950 families, Temple Emanu-El creates a space where members participate in Jewish ritual life, educational programming, and lifelong learning. The values that members learn within the walls translate into the greater community of Westfield and Union County, where congregants engage in local, state, and national advocacy, philanthropy, and justice. The temple also encourages members to form a meaningful connection to the Land and People of Israel. Temple Emanu-El stands as the model of an engaged, creative, and vibrant Reform synagogue.

Mr. Speaker, as Temple Emanu-El celebrates 75 years of Jewish spiritual, cultural, and communal excellence, I am pleased to commend Senior Rabbi Ethan Prosnit and the congregation for being an integral part of the Westfield area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this community truly dedicated to faith and education.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LA-DINÉ
WILLIAMS GAMBLE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. La-Diné Williams Gamble, a devoted servant of God, a gifted musician, a tireless educator, and a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. Dr. Gamble transitioned into eternal rest on Thursday, September 18, 2025, leaving behind a rich legacy of faith, music, service, and scholarship that touched lives across South Carolina and beyond.

Born in Lakewood, New Jersey, on February 27, 1964, to Johnny and Rudine Williams, La-Diné grew up in a faith-filled and education-centered home. From an early age, she displayed remarkable musical talent, be-

ginning piano studies at the age of five and later training at Juilliard. She excelled academically and artistically, graduating from Hillside High School where she was active in band, theater, and choir. She went on to pursue higher education at Shenandoah Conservatory, Seton Hall University, and Clark Atlanta University, where she earned her master's degree in public administration. Committed to lifelong learning, she completed doctoral studies in Christian Education at Gospel Without Borders Bible College and Seminary.

Music was her lifelong ministry. Dr. Gamble served as organist, choir director, and soloist for churches in New Jersey, Georgia, and South Carolina. She was a founding member of the National Baptist Convention USA Choir Auxiliary, served faithfully with New Ebenezer Baptist Church in Florence where her husband pastored, and was inducted into the South Carolina Baptist E&M Convention's Music Hall of Fame. She believed that music was a way God spoke to her, and she shared that gift in sanctuaries, classrooms, and celebrations across decades.

Dr. Gamble's professional life was equally impactful. She taught in higher education, guided young people through the Williamsburg County School District and Williamsburg Technical College, and directed grant-writing efforts that secured a \$25 million Race to the Top award. Even after retiring, she continued to consult with school districts and local governments, championing programs to improve education, healthcare, and opportunities for rural communities.

Her civic and cultural service extended through many affiliations, including the Lions Club, the American Leadership Forum, and her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Initiated into AKA in 1986, she served as president of two chapters, including Lambda Theta Omega Chapter in Kingstree, South Carolina, and exemplified the sorority's motto of "service to all mankind." Known for her elegance and joy, she approached each conference, convention, and gathering with grace, flair, and her radiant smile.

At the heart of her life was her family. She married Rev. Dr. Norman Gamble in 1993, and together they raised four children—Ti-Esha, Cambridge, Na-Dya, and Malcolm—in stilling in them the values of faith, education, and service. She delighted in her role as "Mommy La" to her grandchildren, Landon and Tihler.

Even during her courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, Dr. Gamble remained a beacon of hope. She brought joy to others with her trademark "fashion show" entrances at chemotherapy treatments and inspired countless friends and strangers through her uplifting messages of faith shared online.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in remembering and celebrating the extraordinary life of Dr. La-Diné Williams Gamble. She was a woman of deep faith, boundless energy, and remarkable talent who gave of herself in every sphere of life. Her music, her ministry, and her love will live on in her family, her church, and her community for years to come.

HONORING MATT MARTINKA

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to selfless service Linemen Matt Martinka of Duke Energy.

Mr. Martinka is a Journeyman Lineman in the Asheville area working for Duke Energy, a leading energy company that focuses on delivering electricity and natural gas services to the citizens of North Carolina. Mr. Martinka, along with apprentice linemen Nathan Curlee, were single handedly responsible for restoring power to the Asheville Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital after the catastrophic events of Hurricane Helene.

Hiking over a mile and a half through flooded roads, fallen trees, and a devastated landscape, Mr. Martinka demonstrated remarkable dedication and perseverance to restore power to the VA hospital. Mr. Martinka is a veteran from a multi-generational military family, including his father, grandfather, son, and nieces, and embodies a lifelong commitment to service. Upon learning that power could be restored to the hospital, Mr. Martinka didn't hesitate to act. The people of Asheville have since expressed their deep gratitude, commending Mr. Martinka for his unparalleled courage and selflessness.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank Mr. Martinka for his dedication and service to his community and to those who have served our country in uniform.

CELEBRATING NATIVITY MIGUEL
SCHOOL

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate Nativity Miguel School, a school dedicated to providing quality education to students throughout Western New York. The school fosters academic and personal growth within a supportive community where students are empowered to reach their full potential.

Established more than two decades ago, Nativity Miguel School was grounded in the values and educational principles of Father James F. Joyce. Father Joyce was sent to Buffalo, New York, to conduct a study of the educational needs and challenges of students in underserved communities. To address the problems, Father Joyce proposed the "Nativity Model," a proven method that has been successfully implemented in other Catholic schools throughout the state.

Drawing from its four pillars of courage, compassion, community, and contemplation, Nativity Miguel School walks arm-in-arm with its students and families throughout their educational journey, long after they have graduated. The school's delivery of unique and effective education, including dedicated teachers, personal and peer mentoring, and a strong emphasis on learning, creates an environment where every student can thrive.

Today, as we commemorate the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Nativity Miguel School's newest location, let us celebrate the growth of a mission rooted in hope, opportunity, and transformative education for every student who walks through these doors. Each graduating class builds on this legacy, carrying forward the values, education, and sense of purpose that Nativity Miguel School instills, and Western New York is all the better for it.

**HONORING PEDRO TURUSHINA AS
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HIS-
PANIC HERITAGE MONTH**

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Pedro Turushina is the president and CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Metro Orlando, where he leads the strategic direction of one of the top two chambers in the region. In this role, he develops proactive programs that strengthen membership engagement, foster collaboration, and create meaningful partnerships with key stakeholders across government, private, and non-profit sectors. His leadership positions the chamber as a catalyst for business ownership, economic advancement, and community empowerment.

A proud Colombian native who has called Orlando home since 2001, Pedro has dedicated his career to driving economic growth in Central Florida. Before leading the chamber, he was the founder and creative director of a marketing agency, supporting entrepreneurs and organizations in building their brands and strategies. Today, his vision extends beyond organizational leadership—he actively cultivates alliances that directly impact the region's economy, including partnerships with the cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud, both part of Florida's Ninth Congressional District. Thanks to his efforts, both municipalities are now valued trustees of the chamber, underscoring the trust and collaboration he has fostered in the community.

Under his leadership, the chamber co-hosted a Small Business Town Hall with Orange County and SkyBuilders USA, creating a platform for local entrepreneurs to share needs, connect with peers, and shape the future of Orange County's Small Business Enterprise Program.

Pedro's authenticity and entrepreneurial background have made him a trusted advocate for small businesses, particularly in Osceola County, where the chamber has expanded its presence to better serve the Hispanic community. His commitment to empowerment and opportunity has earned him national and regional recognition, including being named a Top Latino Leader by the Council for Latino Workplace Equity. He has also been recognized as Orlando Business Journal's 40 Under 40, and recipient of the Citrus Club Hispanic Heritage Award as Future Leadership Trailblazer Man of the Year.

**HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS EC-
UMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-
THOLOMEW**

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, a spiritual leader recognized around the world as both a bridge builder and a peacemaker.

For decades, Patriarch Bartholomew has endured harassment and persecution, yet he has remained steadfast in his mission to foster reconciliation between East and West, to promote interfaith dialogue, and to speak out forcefully against fanaticism and violence. His efforts to defend human rights and religious freedom have earned him deep respect among people of many faiths.

Patriarch Bartholomew's unwavering commitment to peace, compassion, and justice has left a profound impact on the world, and his example continues to inspire people across the globe.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his extraordinary service and lasting contributions to humanity.

**WELCOMING ECUMENICAL
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW**

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, who is traveling to the U.S. this month to receive the prestigious Templeton Prize, on his achievements in interfaith dialogue. As this year's Templeton Prize Laureate, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will join the esteemed ranks of past recipients, including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

His All-Holiness has been a pioneer in merging spirituality with science as a force for change. As head of the Eastern Orthodox church, he has gathered scientists, scholars, politicians with Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim clerics. He also became the first Christian hierarch to visit countries like Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Qatar, and Bahrain, building on his church's 550-year history of coexistence with Muslims.

In 1997, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal "in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace." That same year, he decried pollution, deforestation, and climate change as "ecological sins." His All-Holiness' dedication to preserving our planet for future generations is an inspiration to us all.

I thank The Ecumenical Patriarch for his work on interfaith dialogue and protecting the environment, congratulate His All-Holiness on being recognized by the Templeton Prize, and welcome him back to the United States.

**RECOGNIZING NATHAN MORRIS,
2026 ARKANSAS SUPER-
INTENDENT OF THE YEAR**

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Nathan Morris, current Superintendent of the Cross County School District. He is a dedicated Arkansan, a passionate educator, and a strong leader.

On September 15, 2025, Dr. Morris received the prestigious honor of 2026 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year. This award is presented to those who successfully lead learning in their districts, demonstrate strength in both personal and organizational communication, show continuous improvement in administrative knowledge and skills, and actively participate in local community activities while maintaining a deep understanding of regional, national, and international issues.

Dr. Morris' efforts have ensured a graduation rate of 98 percent with a growing academic proficiency rating. Cross County High School has been included in the lists by U.S. News and World Report for both Best High Schools and Best Charter High Schools. At the elementary school level, Cross County Elementary Technology Academy has been recognized as Top 10 World's Best Schools for Overcoming Adversity while under Dr. Morris' leadership.

Dr. Morris began his tenure as superintendent in 2018 and has since guided Cross County through a significant transformation. He has implemented programs that foster teacher leadership, professional collaboration, and growth which have led to lowered office referrals, boosted teacher effectiveness, and 20 percent growth in enrollment.

Dr. Morris exemplifies commitment, hard work, and an unwavering passion for academic success. His recognition as Superintendent of the Year is not only an incredible personal milestone, but a reflection of the great community we have throughout the First District of Arkansas.

I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Dr. Morris, and I look forward to his continued work in education.

**HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
DANIELLE CHRYSLER**

HON. MARK B. MESSMER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Danielle Chrysler for her distinguished career of service to the State of Indiana, our Nation, and the United States Army National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler most recently served as the Army Congressional Branch Chief at the National Guard Bureau, where she was the principal Congressional Liaison for the Director of the Army National Guard. In this capacity, she brought to bear more than three decades of experience in government affairs, defense policy, and cyber policy.

Her military career spans 15 years in the Indiana Army National Guard, including command of the 215th Area Support Medical

Company and a deployment with the 38th Infantry Division, where she served as Executive Officer to the Commanding General. Prior to her most recent role, Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler served four years in Joint and Army Congressional Affairs at the National Guard Bureau, strengthening the relationship between Congress and our Citizen-Soldiers.

In addition to her military service, Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler has held a series of senior civilian leadership roles in Indiana. She served as Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Defense Development, as Chief Operating Officer and President of the National Center for Complex Operations, and earlier as Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman. She also served as Legislative Director for Governor Mitch Daniels, where she was instrumental in advancing major initiatives on property tax reform, transportation infrastructure, and benefits for Hoosier veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler's career reflects a lifetime of commitment to service, leadership, and excellence. She has dedicated herself to strengthening our national defense, advancing Indiana's role in critical policy areas, and ensuring that the National Guard remains prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Danielle Chrysler for her outstanding service to Indiana and to the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LESSIE SYLVEEN POINDEXTER CROSBY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Lessie Sylveen Poindexter Crosby, a beacon of light in the City of Buffalo. Mrs. Poindexter Crosby's life story is a beautiful tapestry woven with love and resilience.

Born September 7, 1935, in Buffalo, New York, to Issac Costello and Fannie Sue Poindexter Johnson. Mrs. Poindexter Crosby was raised to inspire everyone she met with her selflessness and compassion. Over the years, she has witnessed many changes in her life and community, yet her love for those around her has remained a constant source of strength. Mrs. Poindexter Crosby has consistently demonstrated Christian principles as a community member and spiritual leader in the Women's Ministry at First Shiloh Baptist Church.

Mrs. Poindexter Crosby's most rewarding roles have been those of a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. In 1953, Mrs. Poindexter Crosby married the late Mr. Excel Crosby. Their loving union blessed them with four community-minded children—Julie, Gary, Bridgett, and Lisa. Together, they built a home filled with love, respect, and responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mrs. Poindexter Crosby, a woman of poise and resilience, whose influence extends beyond her beloved family and community. On this milestone birthday, we celebrate her extraordinary life, her enduring legacy, and the profound impact she has made on all who know her.

HONORING PHILLIP ARROYO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Phillip Arroyo is a distinguished attorney, advocate, and proud Puerto Rican whose life reflects a lifelong dedication to justice. Born in 1982 on a United States military base in Germany to a Puerto Rican father who served in the Armed Forces, he was raised with the values of resilience, service, and courage. From 2009 to 2012, Mr. Arroyo served as special assistant to the Puerto Rico Secretary of State, Kenneth McClintock, and in the Puerto Rico Senate. He later addressed the international community, twice testifying before the United Nations in New York City on the island's unequal political status within the United States. In 2012, he was selected from thousands of applicants nationwide to serve as a White House intern under President Barack Obama's administration, where he worked in the office of then-Vice President Joe Biden, analyzing domestic policy.

Following his graduation from Florida A&M University College of Law, Mr. Arroyo chose to serve as a public defender, representing the poor and ensuring the constitutional rights of the most vulnerable were protected. In 2022, he transitioned into private practice, co-founding the Arroyo Law Firm in Orlando, Florida, with his wife and law partner, Josephine Arroyo. Under their leadership, the firm has become one of Central Florida's most respected criminal defense and immigration practices, recognized for zealous advocacy, service to underserved communities, and its particular commitment to assisting the Hispanic community.

In addition, Mr. Arroyo is a frequent commentator in both national and local media on issues of criminal justice, immigration, and civil rights. While many in the legal community have remained silent, he has consistently spoken up in defense of our Constitution and immigrant communities during these dark times.

His journey—from Puerto Rico to the United Nations, to the White House, and now to the courtroom—stands as a testament to perseverance, courage, and the enduring power of advocacy in the pursuit of justice for all.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OFFICER KARL HAUGEN

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Officer Karl Haugen, who passed away recently while off-duty.

As early as high school, Karl expressed an interest in becoming a first responder. After attending the Law Enforcement Program at Alexandria Technical College and earning his Bachelor's Degree from Mankato State University, he began his public service career, work-

ing at the Minnesota Forensic Hospital in St. Peter. He later worked at the MN Correctional Facility—Faribault and served for two years as Henderson Chief of Police.

In 2008, he became an officer with the Le Sueur Police Department. Officer Haugen was well-known in the community for his humor, generosity, and compassionate approach to law enforcement. Despite the challenges and sacrifices of rural policing, he remained dedicated to public service and demonstrated a talent for seeing the good in people.

I offer my deepest condolences to Officer Haugen's family—his wife, Morgan, and his young children, Griffin, Aurora, and Teddy, and I thank him and the entire Le Sueur Police Department for their service to our community.

HONORING MS. HATTIE WHITE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt birthday wishes to Ms. Hattie White as she celebrates her remarkable 100th birthday. Born in 1925, she lived in the vibrant Bedford Stuyvesant community in Brooklyn, New York. A community known for its rich African American heritage, social activism, and brownstone homes that reflected the pride of homeownership among neighbors. In fact, at a time when homeownership was not easily attainable, Ms. White owned a home where she provided her seven children with a stable and nurturing environment.

Ms. Hattie lived a life characterized by hard work, resilience, adaptability, and faith. Her life spanned historical events in our society, from the Great Depression, World War II, to the Civil Rights Movement, the cultural shifts of the 1960's and 70's and the advancements in technology. These events shaped her experiences and perspectives, further strengthening her resolve.

In addition to her family, Ms. Hattie has been and remains a devoted member of the Zion Shiloh Baptist Church. Her unwavering faith and commitment to the church community have made her a beloved figure among her fellow congregants. She is a respected elder of the church who is renowned for her years of leadership roles, community service, and guiding her congregation. Her compassion and generosity have touched the lives of many in Brooklyn, making her a true beacon of hope and inspiration.

Ms. Hattie White exemplifies a remarkable legacy of longevity, resilience and a proud spirit of service. She is cherished by her family and friends, who are deeply grateful for her unconditional love and friendship.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Hattie White, one of our Nation's Centenarians, on this special occasion of her 100th year birthday.

RECOGNIZING THE SEMICENTENNIAL OF THE WOOD COUNTY COMMITTEE ON AGING

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Semicentennial of the Wood County Committee on Aging. For five decades, the Committee has been dedicated to service, community, and care for all seniors in Wood County. The hard work and spirit shown by staff at the Committee have made it possible for countless older adults to remain independent and improve their quality of life.

Founded in 1975, the Wood County Committee on Aging was established to provide comprehensive services to the county's seniors. These services have grown over the decades to include programs for home-delivered meals, medical transportation, health and wellness initiatives, caregiver support, and much more. With senior centers across the county, the Committee has been able to help elderly adults and their families navigate the challenges that can arise while aging.

Mr. Speaker, by celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Wood County Committee on Aging, the county can recognize the outstanding achievements of the staff and pride the patrons have for their senior centers. I congratulate the Committee on Aging on this momentous milestone. I thank them for all they do for our county's seniors.

HONORING MR. DAVID CATTLER FOR OVER 30 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. David Cattler for his extraordinary career and over 30 years of federal service to our country. Mr. Cattler is set to retire from the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) on September 30th.

Mr. Cattler began his journey at the U.S. Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and then going on to earn a Master of Policy Management from Georgetown University. He is also a graduate of the National Intelligence University, the US Naval War College, and was a Senior Fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Seminar XXI: Foreign Politics, International Relations and the National Interest.

His career in public service began as a naval surface warfare officer, where he served aboard two Aegis cruisers, USS *Antietam* and USS *Chancellorsville*, and ashore as a military and civilian officer with the Office of Naval Intelligence.

Throughout the years, Mr. Cattler has held many prestigious positions. He served as the Assistant Secretary General for Intelligence and Security at NATO, where he played a key role in shaping and securing critical NATO decision-making. He also served as Deputy Assistant to the President for Regional Affairs

within the National Security Council, helping to coordinate national policy. Additionally, he provided critical advising as a senior advisor to the Director of National Intelligence in various roles, including Chairman of the National Intelligence Management Council, National Intelligence Manager for the Near East, and Principal Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Military Issues.

Throughout his career he has been recognized by numerous national and international awards, including the Joint Distinguished Civilian Service Award; the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana of Estonia (Third Class); the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Poland; the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise of Ukraine (Fifth Degree); the Order of Merit of the Ministry of Defence of Estonia (Second Class); Medal of Noble Partner of the Ministry of Defence of Georgia; Medal of Honorary Recognition of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia; Medal of the Defense Intelligence Service of Lithuania; Medal of Partnership of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine; the DNI Distinguished Service Award; the DIA Director's Award; 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award of the Amphitheater School District (Tucson, Ariz.); Navy Commendation Medal (with one gold star); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Navy Achievement Medal (with one gold star); and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.

I want to personally extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. Cattler for over 30 years of service to our country. His unwavering commitment to national security has shaped our entire nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Cattler's remarkable legacy and authentic leadership. We are grateful for his leadership, courage, and vision.

HONORING MATT AND MORGAN YEAKLEY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matt Yeakley, and his wife Morgan, for their extraordinary service and leadership during the aftermath of Hurricane Helene in Marshall, North Carolina.

When Hurricane Helene struck, downtown Marshall was left heavily damaged, with streets blocked, buildings impacted, and the community in urgent need of coordination and support. From the very first morning after the storm, Matt and Morgan stepped forward without hesitation to organize and lead the town's volunteer cleanup efforts. Matt focused on heavy equipment and debris cleanup, while Morgan coordinated volunteers and addressed medical needs.

Drawing on their leadership skills and deep knowledge of the community, Matt and Morgan quickly established a volunteer coordination hub in front of the courthouse. They identified critical areas needing attention, organized volunteers into specialized teams, and ensured every person, local or visiting, had a meaningful role to play in the recovery.

Their calm demeanor and logistical efficiency transformed a chaotic and uncertain situation into a coordinated, effective response. The safety and productivity of every cleanup

crew were always a priority. Volunteers from across the region praised Matt and his wife for their clarity, professionalism, and kindness.

Thanks to their tireless efforts, downtown Marshall was cleared and stabilized within days, allowing businesses owners and residents to access their properties and begin their own recovery efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation to Matt and Morgan Yeakley as their dedication, humility, and leadership during this time of crisis exemplify the very best of community service.

CELEBRATING UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the people of Ukraine and Ukrainian communities around the world in celebrating Ukrainian Independence Day, observed annually on August 24th. It acknowledges a day of triumph and persistence through the courage and unity of the Ukrainian people.

On August 24, 1991, members of the Ukrainian Parliament replaced the red and blue flag of the Ukrainian Soviet Republic with the current blue and yellow Ukrainian flag following a failed coup in the Soviet Union. In response, pro-democracy leaders chose to push for Ukraine's Independence despite the risks—truly living up to their historic motto "Come what may."

Ukrainian Independence Day is celebrated with a national address and flag-raising ceremony in Kyiv by the President of Ukraine, followed by military parades, cultural performances, and patriotic songs. The blue and yellow Ukrainian flag is proudly displayed across the country and in Ukrainian communities around the world. It is a day of national pride and reflection, where citizens honor the struggles of their ancestors, celebrate their sovereignty, and express solidarity with Ukrainians everywhere.

As we celebrate Ukrainian Independence Day, let us acknowledge and celebrate the sacrifices made by the countless brave souls and citizens who fought for a future of liberty and independence. Let us also take this moment to recognize the vibrant Ukrainian-American community throughout our country. Their cultural contributions enrich our nation, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING DILIA CASTILLO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dilia Castillo was born in Manhattan, New York, to parents from the Dominican Republic. In 1989, she moved to Florida, where she began her career as a freelance photographer, focusing on community events, newspapers, and magazines. Due

to her passionate dedication to community engagement, she is affectionately known as “The People’s Photographer,” or “La Fotógrafa del Pueblo,” in Central Florida.

Dilia’s work and warm personality have earned her affection and recognition within the Central Florida community. Her creative approach to photography has been acknowledged through several awards, including the 2013 APEIH Certificate of Appreciation, 2015 Revista Mujer Award, 2016 Latina Role Models Certificate of Recognition, 2016 Kissimmee Family Mission Inc. Certificate of Recognition, 2016 HAPBWA Award, 2018 Portada Latina Magazine Award, 2019 Premios Boriken Award—Excellence in Artistic Creativity Award at the Puerto Rico Parade in Osceola, 2020 Access Community Center Recognition for Meals on Wheels, 2023 Leadership Awards at the Cuban Sandwich Festival, 2023 Premios Boriken Event Recognition, and El Premio Coqui de Oro Event Recognition.

As a professional photographer, Dilia has contributed to numerous publications, including Caribbean American Passport Magazine, Portada Latina, Yes Business Magazine, the Osceola Star, El Nuevo Amanecer, Enlace Magazine, Karas Magazine, Política—Político Magazine, Revista Mujer, El Periódico El Sol de la Florida, and the HAPBWA Foundation.

Dilia Castillo’s contributions and impact on her community continue to be celebrated.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MS. JOSEFINA BAZAN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Fina Bazan of Rio Grande City, who, after 48 years of service at the local Dairy Queen, has retired.

For nearly half a century, Fina has been a familiar and welcoming face to countless families and neighbors.

Though she may not always recall every name, she has always remembered the faces of those she served, treating each with warmth and kindness.

Her dedication to her work and her community is an inspiration, and her story is one I hold close. My very first job as a young man was also at a Dairy Queen.

I know firsthand the hard work and commitment it takes, and I deeply admire Fina’s devotion over these many decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Fina for her service, congratulating her on her well-earned retirement, and wishing her many years of health and happiness ahead.

HONORING MS. DEANNA PONDER

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service and leadership of Madison County’s Ms. Deanna Ponder in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

When Hurricane Helene devastated our communities, access to fuel was critical to sustaining emergency operations. Without hesitation, Ms. Ponder stepped forward to operate the Madison County School Bus Garage fueling station, ensuring that first responders could continue their vital work.

For 17 days following the storm, Ms. Ponder personally managed the fueling of essential vehicles and equipment including firetrucks, ambulances, county maintenance vehicles, law enforcement fleets, and mobile command centers. She gave tireless effort to her community, delivering more than 20,000 gallons of fuel to power generators supporting light towers, shower camps established by Samaritan’s Purse, law enforcement operations, and other critical services. Her dedication kept recovery efforts moving day and night, under challenging conditions, and provided a lifeline for the community when it was needed most.

Ms. Ponder’s contributions went far beyond logistics. Her leadership, calm presence, and unwavering commitment inspired those around her. First responders and volunteers repeatedly praised her clarity, efficiency, and selfless dedication. Through her efforts, she helped create an organized and reliable system that allowed others to focus on saving lives, restore essential services, and begin the process of rebuilding.

Her actions serve as a powerful reminder that leadership is not always about holding a title, but it is about stepping forward, recognizing a need, and acting with courage and compassion. Madison County, and all of Western North Carolina, are stronger today because of her extraordinary efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest appreciation of Ms. Ponder’s outstanding service and unwavering dedication to her community. Her service embodies the very best of resiliency, selflessness, and dedication in the face of disaster, and she stands as an inspiring example for us all.

CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF RECOVERY OPTIONS MADE EASY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of Recovery Options Made Easy, a peer-run behavioral health organization that serves ten counties across Western New York and the Finger Lakes. Recovery Options Made Easy is dedicated to helping individuals build independence through healing and community connection.

Recovery Options Made Easy is more than just a health organization, it is a community-centered company that has remained committed to serving regional clients for three and a half decades. The organization proudly supplies a wide array of services, including supportive housing, recovery services, and community-based support that empower individuals through lived experiences and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, what truly sets Recovery Options Made Easy apart is not just its professional excellence, but its heart, a legacy now

carried into its 35th year. As we celebrate 35 years, let us recognize its success and contributions to Western New York. Its work reminds us that when we invest in people and support each other, we all benefit together.

HONORING MAYRA LA PAZ AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mayra La Paz is a renowned international journalist of Dominican origin, whose professional career has left a profound mark on the world of communications. Born with an innate passion for storytelling, she began her career in her native Dominican Republic, where she quickly established herself as one of the most respected and admired voices in the media. Her direct and empathetic style, combined with a commitment to truth, led her to excel on national television, covering topics of social, cultural, and political significance, earning the respect of both the public and her colleagues. Motivated by the desire to broaden her horizons, she immigrated to New York City, where she continued her rise in Hispanic media as a reporter, host, and producer, achieving a genuine connection with the Latino community.

In the United States, her voice became a bridge between immigrants and opportunities, denouncing injustices, extolling achievements, and promoting education and culture as tools for transformation. Her talent, charisma, and journalistic ethics have allowed her to excel on networks and programs with high audiences, such as Telemundo, Telemicro Internacional, Supercanal Caribe, and Channel 35 in New York, establishing herself as an opinion leader committed to the progress of her people. She is included among the 100 most influential Dominicans abroad.

For her successful journalistic work, she has been recognized by government agencies in her country, New York, Puerto Rico, and now in Florida, as well as by private institutions. She holds a master’s degree in corporate communication from the Isabella II University in Barcelona, a bachelor’s degree in communication sciences, studies in community management in social media, and coaching studies from the John Maxuel School, among other courses related to effective communication. She is the eldest of seven siblings and has created a stable family with engineer Juan Carlos Rosario, with whom she has four children: Carlos, Joel, Junior, and Karla, as well as a granddaughter: Aria Rose. Today, based in Central Florida, Mayra La Paz continues her legacy as the founder and director of Portada Latina magazine, a media outlet that showcases and celebrates the talent, entrepreneurship, and economic contributions of Hispanics in the United States.

Her magazine celebrates its 10th year of consistent reporting in the Hispanic market in 2025. In addition to her work as a communicator, she mentors women in professional reinvention, creates the effective communication method “Qué Comunicas?” (What Do You Communicate?), and promotes empowerment,

networking, and digital education events. With more than three decades dedicated to journalism, Mayra is a symbol of resilience, excellence, and love for her community.