CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DON KOEHLER

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague Representative SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., to congratulate Don Koehler on his remarkable career and to extend our appreciation for his decades of dedicated service to Georgia's agriculture community.

Since 1986, Don has served as Executive Director of the Georgia Peanut Commission. Throughout his distinguished career, he has provided exceptional leadership to organizations including the Southern Peanut Growers, the Southern Peanut Farmers Federation the U.S. Peanut Federation, the American Peanut Council, and the American Peanut Shellers Association. As Chairman of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee, he has also helped shape U.S. agricultural trade policy by advising both the Department of Agriculture and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Don's leadership has strengthened Georgia's peanut industry, expanded opportunities for producers, and elevated the voice of American agriculture at home and abroad. His lasting contributions have been recognized through numerous honors, including being named one of Georgia Trend's 500 Most Influential Georgians for three consecutive years and his induction into the Georgia Peanut Commission Hall of Fame earlier this year.

The mark that Don has left on this industry will not be forgotten. On behalf of Georgia's 8th and 2nd Congressional Districts, and a grateful agricultural community, we thank him for his remarkable service and wish him and Cheryl every happiness in retirement. May his next chapter be filled with good health, cherished time with his children and four grandchildren, and the many blessings he has so richly earned.

CONGRATULATING NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to congratulate Nova Southeastern University on its 50th anniversary and for a half century of service to our students, community and state. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Nova Southeastern University was founded as Nova University of Advanced Technology on December 4, 1964, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida;

Whereas, in 1994, Nova University merged with Southeastern University of Health and Sciences to form Nova Southeastern University;

Whereas, today, Nova Southeastern University is the largest independent institution of higher education in the southeastern United States and the ninth largest independent, not-for-profit institution of higher education nationally;

Whereas, Nova Southeastern University has graduated more than 162,000 students who have become professionals in such areas as health care, education, law, business, computer sciences, mental and social sciences;

Whereas, Nova Southeastern University employs more than 4,000 people, and has an economic impact of $2.6 billion, in Florida; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, congratulate Nova Southeastern University on its 50th Anniversary and commend it for its contributions to education and for its commitment to our community, state and our country.

HONORING LORI WHITE, JASON CHEW, AND THE ENTIRE DEPAUW GROWING GREEN AND GOLD TOGETHER INITIATIVE

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Depauw University's "Growing Green and Gold Together" initiative, which has made tremendous progress and is soon entering its final year of implementation in 2027.

Since 1837, Depauw has provided a well-rounded, premier education to many budding scholars. It is the alma mater of several influential people in American history, including a Vice President, a Congressman, and an NBA Executive.

Depauw continually makes outstanding contributions to its students and local Greencastle residents. This initiative is part of a larger $109 million "Bold & Gold 2027" plan that has invested in resources and amenities for the entire community.

I thank Depauw President Lori White, Project Director and Community Liaison Jason Chew, and the entire "Growing Green and Gold Together" team for giving back to our local communities every day. I look forward to seeing the completion of this greatly anticipated project soon. They have my sincere gratitude for all their hard work and dedication.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MRS. MATTIE MAE PAUL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mattie Mae Paul, a faithful servant of God, a community activist—who lived in the district for 57 years—a beloved mother and friend. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Mattie Mae Paul, an inspiration to all who knew her, returned to school at the age of 59 fulfilling a lifelong dream to further her education by earning her AA Degree in Education;

Whereas, Mrs. Paul, after her retirement from Saint Francis Hospital following a 23-year career, went to work for Miami-Dade County Public Schools at Henry E.S. Reeves Elementary School;

Whereas, Mrs. Paul was an active member of New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church for 40 years, where she was active with the Mission Ministry, Music Ministry/Mass Choir, Usher Ministry, Woman's Ministry and was an assistant Sunday School Teacher; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mattie Mae Paul, for her commitment to God and her church, and for her dedication and devotion to her family, friends and to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALFONSO ''AL'' RODRIGUEZ

HON. YASSAMIN ANSARI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Alfonso "Al" Rodriguez, a beloved mentor, community leader, and pillar of Arizona's boxing community. After more than six decades of dedicated service to young people and boxers across the Valley, Rodriguez passed away on July 6, 2026. While his passing marks the end of an extraordinary life, his legacy will endure through the countless lives he impacted and through the continued work of the Rodriguez Boxing Club.

Al and his wife, Carmen Rodriguez, moved from Texas to Arizona, where they raised five children: Al Rodriguez, Jr., Carolina Olmos, Ofelia Hooper, Fernando Rodriguez, and Seferino "Sefe" Rodriguez. As a third-generation boxer, Al founded the Rodriguez Boxing Club in the backyard of his Mesa home in 1961, where he began coaching his children while instilling in them the notion that everyone is a "diamond in the rough". To Al, every individual possessed the potential to become a champion, both inside and outside the ring.

That belief became the foundation of the Rodriguez Boxing Club, a gym in the heart of downtown Phoenix and a refuge for generations of young people. For decades, the gym has provided a safe, welcoming environment where youth can develop discipline, confidence, and resilience. Operating as a nonprofit organization, the Rodriguez Boxing Club has remained committed to ensuring that it is accessible to all members of the community.

Today, Al's children continue to carry forward his mission with the same compassion, dedication, and commitment to service that defined their father's life. Through their leadership, the Rodriguez Boxing Club remains a testament to Al's enduring belief in the transformative power of mentorship, opportunity, and community.

It is my privilege to recognize the remarkable life of Alfonso "Al" Rodriguez and to honor his more than six decades of service to Arizona's 3rd Congressional District.