

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL SURVIVORS

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, as the longest serving Native American in the United States House of Representatives, and a member of the Chickasaw Nation, I rise today to recognize the day of September 30, 2026, as National Orange Shirt Day or, National Day of Remembrance, to honor those who were forced to attend Indian boarding schools, and to recognize the experience of Indian boarding school victims and survivors.

Today, I am proud to stand in support with Indian boarding school survivors, descendants, and Tribal nations to remember the children that never made it home and to honor the week of remembrance for the Indian boarding school era.

As the lead sponsor of HR. 7325, the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, I support formal investigation, documentation, and reporting on the histories of boarding schools, their policies, and long-term effects those schools and policies have had on Native American peoples. My democratic co-lead, Representative SHARICE DAVIDS, and I are dedicated to finding solutions for survivors, descendants, and Tribal communities.

According to research from the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, the Federal government funded boarding schools for Native Americans from 1819 through the 1960s that forced the removal of hundreds of thousands of American Indian and Alaska Native children as young as 3 years old, relocating them from their traditional homelands to 1 of at least 526 known Indian boarding schools, of which 125 remain open today, across 38 States.

In my state of Oklahoma, there were 98 Federal boarding schools that were often overflowed to intentionally mix more than 30 different tribes to unsettle relations and prevent children from speaking common languages among each other.

Many of the children who were taken to Indian boarding schools never returned home to their families or their communities. Many did not survive. The impact of this is still felt today.

In closing, I call upon my colleagues to stand with me in Remembrance Day and support the passage of H.R. 7325.

CELEBRATING H. LEE MOFFITT'S 85TH BIRTHDAY AND 40 YEARS OF MOFFITT CANCER CENTER

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former State Senator H. Lee Moffitt and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Moffitt Cancer Center, an institution born from one man's vision.

I congratulate former State Senator Lee Moffitt for bringing this vision to life and hope he has a good 85th birthday in November.

Moffitt Cancer Center began with the belief that one person can make a difference. More than four decades ago, H. Lee Moffitt envisioned a place where patients could access world class cancer care and research without leaving Tampa Bay or the state of Florida. After losing two friends to cancer and surviving cancer himself, he understood firsthand the fear of a diagnosis and was struck that those he knew had to seek care outside the state. He made it his mission to change that.

Entering the Florida Legislature, he developed a reputation for being issue-oriented and persistent, qualities that would define his effort to bring a cancer center to Tampa.

What began as one person's vision has grown into a nationally recognized cancer center where oncologists, researchers, and team members work together to advance the prevention and cure of cancer.

Because of Lee's vision, countless patients now have access to exceptional care and the latest research, closer to home.

As Moffitt looks toward its next 40 years, the foundation Lee built remains at its center. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring H. Lee Moffitt's legacy and wishing him a happy 85th birthday this November.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GEORGE KOIKOS

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of George Koikos, a true legend of the Tallahassee restaurant industry and someone I am proud to call my family.

George is my cousin through marriage and came to America from Greece to build a life rooted in the American Dream. He opened The Spartan Restaurant in 1969, followed by Brothers Three, Torreya Grill, and other successful restaurants before founding Georgio's Fine Food & Spirits, which became a Tallahassee institution.

Long before hospitality management schools were commonplace, George helped

shape the restaurant industry through his unmatched commitment to his customers and employees.

Throughout his career, he had the privilege of serving Governors, United States Senators, Members of Congress, and legendary football coaches, while becoming a trusted and beloved fixture in the Tallahassee community.

George leaves behind his beloved wife, Karen Koikos, and his three daughters, Katerina Maroney, Leni Spears, and Nikoleta Koikos. He also leaves behind countless friends, employees, and members of the community who were fortunate enough to know him.

I am grateful for the memories I have of George and for the legacy he leaves behind. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of George Koikos. May he rest in peace.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I cast my vote incorrectly on Roll Call No. 309, on passage of H.R. 9576, the National Fraud Enforcement Division Act. I mistakenly voted YEA when I intended to vote NAY.

HONORING MICHIGAN'S WEST POINT GRADUATES

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding Michiganders who recently graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and answered the call to serve our Nation as commissioned officers in the United States Army.

More than 12,000 men and women applied to join the Class of 2026, yet only a select few earned the opportunity to attend West Point and successfully complete its rigorous four-year program. Earning a place at the Academy is an accomplishment in itself, but graduating requires far more than academic excellence. It demands discipline, perseverance, and a willingness to put service to our Nation before oneself.

As a Marine who served our Nation for four decades, I know firsthand that military service asks a great deal of those who choose to wear the uniform. I also know that the strength of our military ultimately rests not only on equipment or technology, but on the character of the men and women willing to serve. As

● 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.

they begin assignments across our Nation and around the world, these new Second Lieutenants will have the opportunity to lead our Soldiers through the challenges of military service. I have no doubt that the lessons they learned at West Point will serve them well as they take on this responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I extend my sincere congratulations to these graduates and their families. May they continue to lead with courage, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to defending our Constitution and our Nation. I wish each of them success as they begin this next chapter of their service to our country.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL ROBERT
W. RUST

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Robert W. Rust, whose actions helped prevent an assassination attempt on President John F. Kennedy before he took the oath of office.

Colonel Rust passed away on September 1, 2024, in Florida at the age of 96. He was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery in March of 2025.

Colonel Rust had a long career in public service and law enforcement, serving as a Marine Patrol Officer for the City of Miami; Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice for the Southern District of Florida; Chief Assistant County Prosecutor; State Representative for the Palm Beach and Martin Counties in the Florida House of Representatives; and U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice for the Southern District of Florida from 1969 to 1977 before returning to privately practice law until his retirement in 1989. These are only a few of his many accomplishments and positions over his long life.

In December 1960, during his time as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice, he used his authority to protect the then President-Elect John Fitzgerald Kennedy by intercepting the attempted assassin Richard Paul Pavlick.

After his Presidential win, Kennedy vacationed at his family's estate in Palm Beach, Florida. Richard Pavlick followed Kennedy from New England to Florida, planning to carry out a suicide car bombing targeting the 35th President. Pavlick waited for an opportunity when Kennedy would not be with his wife, Jacqueline, and their two young children.

Acting on a tip from Postmaster Thomas Murphy of Belmont, New Hampshire, Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Rust and John Marshall, Agent in Charge of the Secret Service for South Florida, intercepted Pavlick after he was detained by Palm Beach motorcycle police officer Lester Free for a traffic infraction. Agent Marshall persuaded Pavlick to sign a consent-to-search form, which led to the discovery that his car was filled with dynamite. Rust had traced Pavlick's purchase of the dynamite to New Hampshire, uncovering that Pavlick had followed President-elect Kennedy to Florida with the intent to assassinate him.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rust subsequently charged Pavlick federally with attempting to bomb a church, which had recently become a federal crime. At that time, it was not yet a federal crime to murder or threaten a President or President-elect; previous assassinations had been prosecuted only under state law. Rust and Marshall also persuaded Pavlick to sign a consent form to search his motel room. After obtaining his signed consent, they discovered a manifesto detailing his intent to assassinate Kennedy.

Around this time, the Secret Service detail assigned to Kennedy's Florida visit checked into a hotel across the street. Kennedy was scheduled to arrive in Palm Beach the following day. Rust and Marshall then walked the handcuffed Pavlick over to the Secret Service. Pavlick was ultimately committed to an institution after it was determined that he had a history of mental illness.

This attempt on President Kennedy's life is often overlooked due to an airline accident that occurred the same day and, of course, because of his tragic death nearly three years later.

Rust received the Secret Service Treasury Department Award of Merit in 1964, as well as a letter of commendation from U.S. Secret Service Chief U.E. Baughman.

In 1961, at the beginning of the 87th Congress, Public Law 87-829 was introduced and passed the following year, extending Secret Service protection to include Presidents-elect, Vice Presidents-elect, former presidents, and their families—considering the threat the previous December.

Without Colonel Rust's efforts, Pavlick could have inflicted great harm on the future President and innocent Americans around him. I am proud to honor his legacy with these remarks today.

RECOGNIZING HERMAN PORTER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Herman Porter as the 2026 Kern County Fair Person of the Year and to thank him for his decades of dedicated service to the community.

Mr. Porter first became involved with the Kern County Fair in 1955 as a high school FFA member showing beef cattle. In 1963, he married his wife, Jeannette Ansolabehere, who was also a fair exhibitor, showing sheep. Together, they raised two daughters, both of whom participated in local 4-H programs. During this time, Herman became a leader of the local Cawelo 4-H Club and later the Southwest 4-H Club, where he helped young people learn responsibility and succeed. Over the years, his experience and guidance have helped countless exhibitors, including the 25 Kern County Fair Grand Champions he helped select and mentor.

Mr. Porter's contributions extend well beyond the show ring. He has been a steadfast leader on the Junior Livestock Committee, helping raise funds, supporting local livestock

auctions, and providing scholarships for community youth. Mr. Porter has also served on the Dairy and Clean Stall Committees, always willing to lend his time and experience to help make the fair a success.

For more than seven decades, Mr. Porter's dedication to the community and the fair has always been more than animal showing competition. He has encouraged young people, taught responsibility, and strengthened the agricultural traditions of the Central Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Herman Porter on being named the 2026 Kern County Fair Person of the Year and thanking him for his decades of service, leadership, and dedication to the Kern County community.

RECOGNIZING GLOBE
ENGINEERING'S 80TH ANNIVER-
SARY DURING AMERICA'S
SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, this year Globe Engineering in Wichita is celebrating 80 years of manufacturing excellence in the Air Capital of the World.

Globe got its start in 1946 in the garage of Albert Nelson, Jr., a mechanical engineer who worked at Boeing Wichita during World War II. Before long, he won his first aircraft contract building drop tank frames. More aviation work followed, and he renamed the company Globe Engineering.

Eight decades later, that garage operation has grown into an aerospace supplier with a main campus of more than 400,000 square feet. The men and women of Globe build exhaust systems, tube assemblies, fuel and hydraulic lines, bulkheads, and propeller spinners for commercial, general aviation, and military aircraft. Globe plays an important role in supporting our national defense as well, supporting programs like the C-130 Hercules, F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, CH-47 Chinook, and AH-64 Apache.

Kansans have designed and manufactured components and complex assemblies here for more than a century, and suppliers like Globe Engineering are why Wichita remains the Air Capital today. Their skilled workforce makes the parts and components that keep our skies safe and our military at the leading edge.

While this milestone for Globe Engineering is impressive, it is even more meaningful that it coincides with the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Aviation has been an important part of our nation's story throughout the last century, thanks to Kansas businesses like Globe. As we celebrate 250 years and look toward the next 250 years, I have full confidence that Globe Engineering will remain a critical part of our Nation's story.

I am grateful that Globe Engineering has called Wichita home for 80 years and continues to invest in the people of south central Kansas. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Kansas, congratulations.

HONORING BETHESDA-CHEVY
CHASE HIGH SCHOOL'S CENTEN-
NIAL

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the centennial of one of the country's great high schools, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, which is filled with serious learning and amazing public spirit. For the past 100 years, B-CC has educated generations of young Marylanders who have gone on to serve our community and our Nation with distinction, making extraordinary contributions to American life and culture. Today, B-CC is one of the Free State's top-performing high schools where students learn from great teachers, make lasting friendships, and participate actively in community life.

B-CC exemplifies America's historic commitment to excellence in public education. First incorporated in 1926 as a two-story, 14-classroom facility, B-CC became open to every student in our communities in 1956 after Brown v. Board of Education when African American students like Dr. Betty Holston Smith attended the newly desegregated school. Today, B-CC exemplifies Montgomery County's values of pluralism and educational opportunity by helping students from 66 different countries speaking 18 languages thrive in its classrooms.

Students at B-CC are fortunate to receive exemplary support from the B-CC Educational Foundation. The foundation expresses the wonderful commitment of parents, alumni and community members in Montgomery County to sustaining a world-class education at B-CC.

B-CC's Battlin' Barons distinguish themselves on and off the field (and rink) as State Champions in cross country, field hockey, ice hockey and many other sports. Students also participate in over 100 thriving clubs and extracurricular activities. These organizations help students find their passions and exercise their leadership skills every day. It is always a joy to visit B-CC.

B-CC boasts a wonderful list of accomplished graduates. B-CC alumni include successful scriptwriters, journalists, professional athletes, ambassadors, governors, state senators, federal judges, MacArthur Fellows, businesspeople and union organizers.

I wish my constituents—Bethesda-Chevy Chase's students, parents, faculty, staff and alumni—a memorable and beautiful Centennial Homecoming. Here's to another brilliant century and all of the achievements and adventures to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN
DAVID HAWTHORNE, JR., UNITED
STATES ARMY (RET.)

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a soldier, a scientist, a builder of communities, and a faithful servant of God—Lieutenant Colonel John David Hawthorne, Jr.,

United States Army, Retired, of Albany and Baconton, Georgia, who entered eternal rest on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at the age of 77. His family and friends will celebrate his life on Thursday, September 24, at Saint Mary Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, and on Friday he will be laid to rest with military honors at Andersonville National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, John Hawthorne was born on November 14, 1948, the eldest of six children of the late Rosa and John D. Hawthorne, Sr. He grew up in Highlands County, Florida, in the years when the law of the land said that a child like him should be kept apart. In 1966, he walked across the stage at Lake Placid High School as the only African-American graduate in his class.

Picture that young man, Mr. Speaker. A cap and gown. A diploma in his hand. And not one face in the rows behind him that looked like his own. He could have carried that loneliness as a wound. Instead, he carried it as an assignment—and he spent the rest of his life making certain that the young people who came after him would never have to walk across that stage alone.

He went on to Florida A&M University and to Tuskegee Institute, and in 1971 he graduated cum laude from Florida A&M with a Bachelor of Science degree in physics. That same year he was named a Distinguished Military Graduate, and on July 29, 1971, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. Years later, he earned a Master of Business Administration from Albany State University, an institution I am proud to represent.

Mr. Speaker, few Americans have lived a life of such remarkable range. As a young engineer trainee, he worked on NASA's Apollo Saturn program—a young Black physicist from rural Florida, helping this Nation reach for the moon. He served as a zone manager for the Lincoln Mercury Division of Ford Motor Company, and he held management positions with Procter & Gamble.

But it was in uniform that his country asked the most of him, and he gave it. Across 26 years of active and reserve service, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of Field Artillery. He graduated from the Pershing Missile School and, while stationed in Germany during the Cold War, became one of the first African-American officers to command a Pershing missile unit—entrusted with some of the most consequential weapons this Nation has ever fielded. He completed the Army's Command and General Staff College, attended the Department of Defense and U.S. Army Europe Race Relations School, and later served as Deputy Commandant of the 3294th United States, Army Reserve Forces School. He retired from military service on November 14, 2008—his 60th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, a man with that record could have gone anywhere. John Hawthorne came home to his neighbors.

He served the City of Albany as Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development and as manager of its business incubator, and he taught business to the students of Albany State. In Florida, he served the City of Sarasota as Deputy Director of Planning and Redevelopment, led Highlands County Habitat for Humanity as its Chief Executive Officer, managed construction and assets for the Sarasota Housing Authority, and founded AHED Consulting Services. A Governor of

Florida appointed him to the Board of Directors of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I want this House to understand what those titles meant.

When John Hawthorne opened a place for young people, he named it the "Outer Limits Teen Center." It is no accident, I think, that a man who had worked on the rockets that carried America to the outer limits of what it believed possible would give that same name to a place for teenagers—because he believed their limits were out there too, farther than anyone had ever told them. Yes, he also ran an ice cream parlor, because a man who understood rockets also understood what a scoop of ice cream means to a child on a hot Georgia afternoon.

The man who once helped build machines to reach the moon spent the last chapters of his working life helping families reach something closer to home, and in its own way just as hard to reach: a front door with their own key. There are families in Georgia and in Florida tonight who sleep beneath a roof they can call their own because John Hawthorne believed they deserved one and would not rest until they had it.

Beneath every uniform and every title was a man of faith. At New Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Baconton, he served as Vice Chairman of the Deacons' Ministry and as Special Assistant to the Pastor. He served on the board of the Mitchell County House of Hope in Camilla. A man who had commanded soldiers and missiles in Germany was content to serve as a deacon in a country church in Mitchell County. That, Mr. Speaker, is what greatness looks like when it kneels.

He was a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, whose brothers will gather to bid him farewell.

For all the Nation knew him to be, to the people who loved him most he was simply husband, dad, granddad, and great granddad. He was the devoted husband of Iris Allison Hawthorne, his partner in faith and in life. He was counselor, protector, encourager, and friend. He shared what he knew with anyone willing to learn, and he left every room, every organization, and every person better than he found them.

Mr. Speaker, the Apostle Paul, near the end of his own life, wrote words that might have been written for John Hawthorne: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

On Friday, the Army he served for 26 years will lay him to rest at Andersonville National Cemetery, in the Second Congressional District of Georgia, with the honors he earned. A bugle will sound. A flag will be folded and placed in the hands of those who loved him. The young man who once walked across that stage alone will be surrounded, at last, by generations of Americans who answered the same call he did.

Somewhere beyond the reach of any rocket he ever helped to build, I believe he has already heard the only words that ever truly mattered to him: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivan and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life and legacy of Lieutenant Colonel John David Hawthorne, Jr. We extend our deepest condolences to his

wife, Iris; to his children; and grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and to all who loved him. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 10, 2026, AS
NATIONAL INDEPENDENT COS-
TUME STORE DAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Saturday, October 10, 2026, as the inaugural National Independent Costume Store Day. Created by the National Costumers Association to celebrate independent costume stores across the country, this day recognizes the pivotal role these stores play in our communities.

Independent costume stores across the Nation will create their own celebrations, including customer appreciation events, costume showcases, behind-the-scenes tours, cosplay gatherings, theater partnerships, educational programs, charity fundraisers, and other activities that highlight what makes their businesses special.

This day celebrates independent costume stores' support for schools, theaters, performers, community events, local traditions, and creative expression. These neighborhood businesses are filled with creativity, expertise, history, and passion for making our communities stronger. Our own local family business, Chicago Costume Company, serves Chicagoland and beyond, helping bring local productions, celebrations, educational programs, and public events to life.

Small businesses like Chicago Costume Company are a pillar of our creative community, most recently supplying the "Pope Hats" for the Chicago White Sox. Not only do these endeavors keep manufacturing and design jobs local; they showcase our community to the world—Pope Leo XIV received his own Pope Hat from the Chicago Costume Company at the Vatican.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing National Independent Costume Store Day and thanking Chicago Costume Company for their commitment and service to the Chicago community.

RECOGNIZING DAVID WARM ON
HIS RETIREMENT AS MID-AMER-
ICA REGIONAL COUNCIL (MARC)
DIRECTOR

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a deep sense of gratitude that I rise today to honor the lifelong public service career of Mr. David Warm, who has served as the Executive Director of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) for 36 years. Let us take a moment to recognize this accomplished individual in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District who has worked to build better communities

for the people of Kansas City and beyond for nearly four decades.

A Southern California native, David earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara and later received a Master of Public Administration from the University of California, Riverside. As a Cookingham-Noll Fellow, David relocated to Kansas City in 1979 to learn about the ins and outs of local government and the opportunities found in city management. What was only meant to be a year of experience would mark the start of his distinguished career and lead to a life-long dedication to service in our community. David planted roots in the Midwest and took on the role as Assistant City Administrator of the City of Liberty and eventually became the City Administrator for the city.

After years of experience working in local government, David took his expertise to MARC, a nonprofit organization serving as a council of governments across the state line, where he joined as the Executive Director in 1990. Under David's selfless leadership, MARC grew from 50 to 160 staff members, a total of 9 counties, functioning with a budget of 20 percent more than what it once was. The organization has been fundamental in transforming the Kansas City metropolitan area and regional surroundings through its comprehensive solutions on questions regarding transportation, early education, and environment.

Throughout his 36-year tenure, David has faced challenges headstrong with patience and innovation. With an understanding of government and a deep respect for democracy, David grew the organization into a resource hub for cities, building trust and ambition and in turn, bridging collaboration among the many different governments MARC aids. An avid problem solver, David often sees issues as opportunities for growth and helps take what was once a mere idea into a reality. From taking on the management of more Head Start programs in the area to helping cities overcome the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, David led by listening to the issues that were raised and handling them through innovative approaches. As a testament to his invaluable work ethic and devotion to serving his community, he was named the Kansas Citian of the Year by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in 2020. Furthermore, his influence and impact did not go unnoticed when he received the President's Award from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) in 2021.

Most recently, as a host of the FIFA World Cup 2026, Kansas City made its way to the global stage and welcomed the world. Its success, safety, and efficiency are the result of the collective action of many partners and cities built around a broader network made possible by MARC. Serving as a liaison between so many voices, David and his team have strengthened the foundation between the cities and coalitions while assisting them in reaching their goals in an effective and efficient manner. Beyond his role at MARC, David is active in many initiatives and civic groups, serving on nonprofit boards focusing on education, health care, and community development, among many more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing David for his tremendous accomplishments, his commitment and tireless community service. As executive director for

36 years, David focused on ways that he could better his community, and his selfless spirit of determination is displayed throughout his career. His immense impact will continue through the multitude of lives he has impacted. On behalf of Missouri's 5th Congressional District, I wish David great joy and relaxation in his well-deserved retirement.

COLONEL EDWARD SHAMES POST
OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 7365, which would designate the United States Post Office located at 1225 Kempsville Road in Virginia Beach as the Colonel Edward D. Shames Post Office Building.

Colonel Shames was a proud Virginian, a decorated World War II veteran, and a member of one of the most storied units in American military history: Easy Company of the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. Colonel Shames enlisted in the Army in 1942 and volunteered to become a paratrooper.

On June 6, 1944, he parachuted into Normandy as part of the D-Day invasion. During the Normandy campaign, his leadership under fire earned him a battlefield commission, and he would go on to serve as an officer in Easy Company. He fought in Operation Market Garden, endured the brutal Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne, and participated in the Allied advance into Germany. For his courage and sacrifice in combat, Colonel Shames was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. The remarkable story of Easy Company would later become known around the world through Stephen Ambrose's Band of Brothers and the television series it inspired. But Colonel Shames' service to our country did not end with World War II.

He continued serving in the Army Reserve and in our national security community before retiring with the rank of colonel in 1973. He eventually made Virginia Beach his home, where he remained an active member of our community and a strong advocate for veterans and military remembrance. When Colonel Shames passed away in 2021 at the age of 99, he was the last surviving officer of Easy Company.

Mr. Speaker, in Hampton Roads, we understand that the freedoms we enjoy today were secured by generations of Americans who answered the call to serve. Colonel Edward D. Shames was one of those Americans. By placing his name on the Kempsville Road Post Office, we can ensure that his story, and the courage, sacrifice, and patriotism of the Greatest Generation he represented, continues to be remembered by the Virginia Beach community for generations to come.

I am proud that this legislation has received bipartisan support, and I thank my colleagues for helping us bring it to the House floor.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7365 and help us provide this lasting tribute to a distinguished Virginia veteran and American hero.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST
N. "ERNIE" LAFLAMME, JR.

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join a grateful Chicopee community in mourning the loss of a true giant in the City of Chicopee, Ernest N. "Ernie" Laflamme, Jr.

Often referred to as the "Dean" of Chicopee, Ernie affectionately earned this distinction after faithfully serving the city for more than five decades, spanning 12 mayoral administrations and serving as both Assessor and then as Treasurer. A dedicated public servant, Ernie understood that holding public office is a privilege and that earning the trust of the people you serve should never be taken for granted. For years, Ernie was a constant presence in City Hall for residents and public servants alike, serving as a trusted source of wisdom, institutional knowledge, and friendship.

Beyond his work in public service, Ernie was a devout Catholic and a steadfast believer in giving back to his community. From mentoring young people through the Boy Scouts and supporting Sunshine Village, to his involvement with the Knights of Columbus and the Chicopee Chamber of Commerce, and his unrelenting support for our veterans, there is not a corner of the city that has not benefited from Ernie's efforts. While the list of charitable causes is too numerous to name, one thing remained constant: Ernie lived a life defined by service to others. Few have given more of themselves to the community he cared for so deeply and felt privileged to call home.

While his passing leaves a profound void in the city, I have no doubt that Ernie's legacy will live on not only through the generations of public servants he inspired, but through his children, grandchildren, and the generations of Laflammes who will carry forward the values of faith, family, and service that guided his life.

I thank Ernie's family for sharing Ernie with us for all these years. The City of Chicopee and all of western Massachusetts are better off because of Ernie's extraordinary life of service. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary life of Ernest N. Laflamme, Jr., and extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and the entire Chicopee community.

RECOGNIZING THE INTER-
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR
SPELLING AS COMMUNICATION

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the International Association for Spelling as Communication, known as I-ASC, for its work supporting nonspeaking individuals and their families and advancing communication access, inclusion, agency, and autonomy.

Founded in 2019, I-ASC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance communication access for nonspeaking individuals

through training, education, advocacy, and research. The organization brings together nonspeaking self-advocates, families, practitioners, researchers, and allies around the shared goal of expanding opportunities for individuals who cannot reliably use speech as their primary means of communication.

I-ASC supports augmentative and alternative communication, with a particular focus on spelling and typing. The organization also provides practitioner training in Spelling to Communicate, or S2C, a methodology developed to teach nonspeaking individuals to communicate by pointing to letters.

Central to I-ASC's work is a belief that communication access can open doors to greater participation in education, employment, relationships, and community life. Its programs seek to ensure that nonspeaking, minimally speaking, and unreliably speaking individuals have opportunities to communicate and exercise greater agency in their own lives.

I especially commend I-ASC for elevating the perspectives of nonspeaking individuals themselves. The organization's Nonspeaking Leadership Council provides nonspeaking adults with a formal role advising I-ASC's leadership and helping shape its work. This commitment reflects an important principle for all of us who work in public service: policies and programs affecting people with disabilities should be informed by their experiences and perspectives.

Here in Northern Virginia and across the country, families of people with disabilities are powerful advocates for their loved ones. Organizations like I-ASC help build communities where families can find resources, education, and connections while working toward a future in which individuals with disabilities can participate more fully in every aspect of community life.

As we continue working to make our schools, workplaces, public spaces, and institutions more accessible, we must remember that accessibility includes communication. Every individual deserves dignity, respect, and meaningful opportunities to participate in the decisions and communities that shape their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the International Association for Spelling as Communication and the nonspeaking individuals, families, practitioners, advocates, and community members who contribute to its work. I wish I-ASC continued success as it works to advance communication access and inclusion for nonspeaking people.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. BRUCE JOHN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a beloved local musician from Connecticut's 2nd District, Mr. Bruce John who sadly passed away on June 29, 2026. Mr. John lived in downtown Storrs, Connecticut, for over 70 years and, in that time, he became a highly sought after, revered community musician. Since the 1960s, Mr. John has performed in coffee houses, outdoor festivals,

schools, senior centers, and at countless folk events with both his guitar and sweet voice. As the last troubadour of Willimantic, as he was known, he has provided Eastern Connecticut with more than the gift of fine music, but also a life dedicated to service to others and selfless philanthropy.

Mr. John grew up in Mansfield, Connecticut, graduated from E.O. Smith High School in 1969, and attended Eastern Connecticut State University. He started his musical career in elementary school with a memorable, rousing performance of "Blue Suede Shoes" at the school's talent show. From that point on, he was hooked on performing for audiences big and small, who never stopped applauding his charisma and joy on stage. Despite that heady success, he stayed down to earth. He remained closely connected with his family, friends and neighbors in Eastern Connecticut despite rubbing elbows with world renowned musical stars.

Mr. John's authentic brush with stardom originated when he cofounded the hallowed music venue, The Shaboo Inn, which hosted local artists and world-renowned giants like Aerosmith, the Police, Blondie, and Miles Davis until its closing in 1982. He also performed as the "Singasaurus" in The Kidsville Kuckoo Revue, providing family-friendly entertainment around Tolland County since he founded it in 1989. He was a part of other bands as well including The Gas Company, Tonight Only, Dinosaurs After Dark, and The Bruce John Genre Jam. Mr. John was not only part of the cultural life of his community as a talented musician, but he prepared the stage for others to enrich the lives of his neighbors both young and old.

Mr. John was able to convert his musical and entrepreneurial talents to benefit multiple local charities. Mr. John founded the Bread Box Folk Music Theater in Willimantic with his wife, Therese, to raise funds for the Covenant Soup Kitchen. So far, the theater has raised over \$275,000 since its creation in 2009 to benefit the soup kitchen. He also ran benefit dances for 20 years with his band, the "Dinosaurs After Dark", to pay the rent of the Project Hope Homeless Shelter in Willimantic. He has raised over \$175,000 for Project Hope, while personally giving to many other local Eastern Connecticut charities. These a just a small sample of the substantial help he donated to his neighbors in need and in crisis, that made such a positive difference in their lives. On September 27, 2026, there will be a memorial concert in his beloved town of Willimantic, with some of his musical friends and colleagues in front of hundreds and hundreds of fans to pay tribute to his extraordinary, inspiring life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the people of Willimantic to express our deep admiration for Mr. Bruce John's tremendous life of service. May he serve as an inspiration to us all on how we might use our special gifts to serve one another. Join me also in expressing our deepest condolences to his wife, Therese John; his siblings, Kim and Gary; his daughters, Emma and Mia; his sons-in-law, Sean and Joshua; and his grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING DETECTIVE WAN
LEE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Detective Wan Lee upon his retirement after more than 31 years of dedicated service in law enforcement, including more than 30 years serving the Grapevine community.

Detective Lee began his law enforcement career in 1995 with the Royse City Police Department before joining the Grapevine Police Department in 1996. Throughout his distinguished career with the Grapevine Police Department, Detective Lee served in Patrol and took on numerous specialized assignments. He served as a Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, and Defensive Tactics Instructor, helping train and mentor fellow officers. He also served on the SWAT Team and later joined the Motor Unit, where he became a certified Accident Reconstructionist.

In 2014, Detective Lee began serving as a Task Force Officer with the Drug Enforcement Administration. During his time with the DEA, he became a certified member of the agency's Special Response Team and served on its high-risk warrant team.

For more than three decades, Detective Lee has demonstrated professionalism, dedication, courage, and an unwavering commitment to protecting and serving others. His willingness to pursue specialized training, take on challenging assignments, and mentor fellow law enforcement professionals has left a lasting impact on the Grapevine Police Department and the communities he has served.

As Detective Wan Lee begins his well-earned retirement, I extend my sincere gratitude for his many years of service to our community and congratulate him on an exceptional career in law enforcement.

RECOGNIZING JAY BLOMMEL OF
WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jay Blommel, an OPC Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his outstanding service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. Through Light Up Navajo, skilled utility professionals volunteer their time and expertise to help bring electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. As a lineman, Mr. Blommel put his specialized skills to work performing the challenging, hands-on work necessary to help extend electrical service to families in need. For most Americans, reliable electricity is part of everyday life. For families who have gone without it, however, turning on the power can be transformational. Electricity provides light after dark, allows food and medicine to be safely refrigerated, and provides greater safety, comfort, and opportunity.

Mr. Blommel's willingness to leave his own community and use his professional skills in

service to others embodies the cooperative spirit at its very best. His hard work helped advance a mission that is not simply about connecting electrical lines—it is about connecting families to greater opportunity and a better quality of life. I commend Mr. Jay Blommel for his professionalism, hard work, and commitment to serving others. His efforts reflect great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MEM-
ORY OF MYRA ANN LANDRESS
JONES

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Myra Ann Landress Jones, a beloved native of Fernandina Beach, Florida, who passed away on September 8, 2026, at the age of 86.

Born on June 6, 1940, to Raymond and Inez Landress, Myra was a proud member of the Fernandina Beach High School graduating class of 1958 and a lifelong pillar of our local community. Her faith and community spirit shone brightly through her active membership at Springhill Baptist Church and her passionate support as a University of Florida Gator Booster.

Myra dedicated decades of her life to public service, retiring from the Federal government after distinguished work as a legal assistant with the United States Attorney in New Hampshire, the Florida Veterans Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration. Never one to slow down, she continued serving Nassau County by working for the School Board of Nassau County and Fernandina Beach Realty for two decades before her well-earned retirement in 2018 at the age of 78.

Above all else, Myra's heart belonged to her family. She was a devoted mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, and surrogate grandmother whose warmth, guidance, and love enriched multiple generations. She leaves behind a remarkable legacy in her sons, Benjamin and David; her daughter, Leslie; her extended family; and a growing lineage of grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will forever cherish her memory.

Mr. Speaker, Myra Ann Landress Jones lived a life defined by quiet dedication to her country, her community, and her loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory and extending our deepest condolences to her family during this time.

RECOGNIZING GENENTECH

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Genentech, whose global headquarters is in my hometown of South San Francisco, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary and to honor its profound impact on the biotechnology industry, scientific innovation, and the lives of patients across the globe.

As the world's first biotechnology company, Genentech has been an industry pioneer since

its founding in 1976. The company's 50-year history began with a single phone call between venture capitalist Robert A. Swanson and biochemist Dr. Herbert W. Boyer. Swanson had heard about Boyer's role in the invention of recombinant DNA technology, research which would soon prove living cells could be programmed to produce life-changing medicines. By the end of the three-hour conversation, the two had conceived a way to commercialize recombinant DNA technology, and Genentech was born. After months of experiments, the team of scientists at Genentech successfully synthesized somatostatin. Even though the experiment had no commercial consequences, it confirmed that recombinant DNA technology could be used to make human proteins and established an important precedent at the company of letting science lead business. Equipped with new knowledge, confidence, and funding, Genentech scientists went on to become the first team to synthesize human insulin, medicine that has changed millions of lives since.

In the decades that followed, Genentech continued to lead. Its scientists developed the first monoclonal antibody approved in the United States for the treatment of cancer, a therapy for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma that helped establish antibody-based treatment as a pillar of modern oncology. Genentech introduced the original HER2-targeted therapy for metastatic breast cancer. In doing so, it launched the first therapeutic antibody paired with a required companion diagnostic test, an innovation that helped realize the promise of precision medicine by ensuring the suitable medication met the correct patient. Furthermore, Genentech introduced the first B-cell depleting therapy approved for both relapsing and primary progressive forms of multiple sclerosis, offering hope to patients with a form of the disease that had long lacked approved treatment options. The company's legacy of firsts reflects Genentech's sustained, decades-long institutional commitment to solving problems that others may have judged too difficult, too risky, or too small a market to pursue.

Such commitment continues today at an extraordinary scale. Genentech invests \$15 billion annually in research and development, representing one of the largest R&D budgets in the biotechnology industry. Its scientists contribute their experimentation and innovation in five therapeutic areas: Oncology-Hematology, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Immunology, and Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolism. Genentech is a proud member of the scientific community and is committed to sharing its discoveries by encouraging its researchers to publish their findings.

Genentech medicines have received 43 FDA Breakthrough Therapy Designations, a distinction reserved for treatments that show substantial improvement over existing therapies for serious conditions. 46 Genentech medicines appear on the World Health Organization's Model List of Essential Medicines, the WHO's own register of the medicines judged most effective, safe, and necessary within a health system. The company has developed more than 40 FDA-approved medicines for serious and life-threatening diseases. Today, it sponsors 250 clinical trials in the United States with 66 investigational medicines currently in development, a pipeline that represents the next generation of potential treatments for patients still waiting for better options.

Scientific breakthroughs only matter if patients can access these life-changing therapies. Genentech has a history of sustained investment in patient assistance. Over the past 30 years, Genentech has helped more than 4 million people through its patient assistance programs. In 2025 alone, the company's Commercial Co-pay Assistance programs supported 213,000 eligible patients, and Genentech Access Solutions helped 320,000 people navigate access issues to obtain the medicines they had been prescribed. Similarly, the Genentech Patient Foundation has assisted more than 900,000 individuals, including 75,000 eligible patients who received free medicine through the Foundation in 2025 alone. Few companies in any industry can point to a four-decade record of direct, sustained assistance to patients in need on this scale.

Genentech's footprint in American science and manufacturing is substantial and growing. The company has committed \$50 billion to invest in American infrastructure, supporting the domestic manufacturing and research capacity that keeps cutting-edge medicine grounded in the United States. Genentech has proudly called South San Francisco home since its founding, establishing the city as the birthplace of biotechnology.

Genentech has long maintained that its mission goes beyond the laboratory. Since 2017, it has invested more than \$230 million in education, health access, and community wellbeing. For more than ten years, the company has operated Futurelab, a STEM education program that reaches 8,000 K–12 students annually in the South San Francisco Unified School District, educating and inspiring the next generation of American scientists. The company's Genentech Goes to Town program has encouraged employees at sites across the country to patronize local merchants each fall, an effort that has invested more than \$4.8 million into more than 300 small businesses.

Looking to the next 50 years and beyond, Genentech is proving itself a role model for its future-minded approach to sustainability and embrace of thrilling new technologies. In 2025, the company completed its transition to 100 percent sustainable electricity across all its sites. Its employees started Green Genes, a grassroots sustainability effort aimed at reducing individual carbon footprint by putting more everyday environmental habits in place. Genentech is also leading the integration of data science and artificial intelligence into their innovation and patient care to ensure it remains at the forefront of scientific progress, recognizing the technology's potential to accelerate Genentech's ability to solve the most pressing health challenges in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Genentech has fundamentally changed the scientific field, and the lives of so many patients, for the better. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating Genentech for its role in creating the biotechnology industry, for its sustained investment in scientific innovation, and for its decades-long commitment to the patients and communities it serves.

RECOGNIZING DR. HENRY SHANNON

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Henry Shannon for his 19 years of service to Chaffey College ahead of his retirement on September 24, 2026. Through his leadership, Dr. Shannon has had an incredible impact on thousands of Inland Empire families in my congressional district and beyond.

Dr. Shannon first came to Chaffey College in 2007, and has served as superintendent and president since then. His colleagues commend his leadership, saying his direction allowed students to thrive and grew the college's sense of community, as he aimed to make Chaffey College the jewel of the Inland Empire.

Before Dr. Shannon launched his career in education, he earned his bachelor's degree from Harris-Stowe State University. After completing his undergraduate degree, he went on to earn his masters and doctorate degrees from Washington University in St. Louis, and a management certificate from Harvard University.

Prior to serving Chaffey College, Dr. Shannon used his passion for higher education to serve the St. Louis community. In St. Louis, he was a campus president and the chief student affairs officer within the St. Louis Community College system. He began his career as a junior high school history teacher in St. Louis, and quickly rose to serve as chancellor for the entire St. Louis Community College system. He also served as a faculty member and administrator at Harris-Stowe State University and St. Louis University.

Dr. Shannon and his wife, Gwendolyn, reside in the heart of the Chaffey College district. Together they raised four children, and have ten grandchildren.

Locally, Dr. Shannon serves as a vibrant member of our community. His strong commitment to community engagement shines by serving as a board member of the Community College Research Center Advisory Board, the Alliance of San Bernardino County, the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board, Growing Inland Achievement, and California Community Colleges Region 9 CEOs.

Over the years, Dr. Shannon's commitment to the educational field has earned him numerous awards. In January of 2026, he was named CEO of the Year by the African American California Community College Trustees and Administrators. Growing Inland Achievement recognized his Equity-Focused Excellence in 2023. In 2022, the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools honored Dr. Shannon with the Distinguished Service Award, and in 2021, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership named him Educator of the Year to recognize his commitment to workforce education and partnerships with the business community.

Although Dr. Shannon has achieved numerous milestones, one of his proudest moments was when \$25 million was awarded to Chaffey by philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. This generous donation was awarded as the result of the school's commitment to equity, a principle

that Dr. Shannon used to guide his career and leadership at Chaffey College.

My office has been proud to partner with Dr. Shannon at numerous events to highlight and expand Chaffey College's innovative work. Dr. Shannon has helped me host visits from numerous federal officials, including former Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, as well as the former Secretary of Labor Marty Walsh, to the InTech Center to view the groundbreaking work that Chaffey College is doing to help ensure students have skills that local employers need.

For his outstanding service to students throughout our community, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Henry Shannon. His commitment to the Inland Empire and beyond is worthy of the highest commendation.

RECOGNIZING THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT IN KAUFMAN COUNTY, TEXAS

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. GOODEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the dedication of the new Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Kaufman County, Texas. Thanks to the work of the Kaufman County Gold Star Committee and the Woody Williams Foundation, this monument will forever recognize the brave men, women, and families who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation's freedom and security.

On September 27, 2026, citizens, veterans, and community leaders will gather in Kaufman County for the official dedication of this monument, creating a sacred space of remembrance, gratitude, and healing. This ceremony, which will be held at Kaufman County Veterans Memorial Park, will serve as a profound opportunity to honor our resilient Gold Star Families, whose profound sacrifice, enduring grief, and unwavering patriotism embody the highest virtues of citizenship and devotion to our Nation.

HONORING CHAD DONAHUE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SKILLED TRADES EDUCATION

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chad Donahue of Des Moines, Iowa, for receiving the 2026 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence and for his outstanding commitment to preparing the next generation of Iowa's skilled workforce.

A welding instructor at Des Moines Public Schools Central Campus, Chad brings two decades of field and shop experience with Sheet Metal Workers Local 45 into his classroom. He did precision work in food-grade stainless and structural steel for companies like Firestone, Cargill, and Tone's Spices, won his local apprentice welding contest three

years in a row, and has a decade of experience teaching apprentices. Chad understands firsthand the difference a great teacher can make. He overcame his own early difficulties as a student with the encouragement of an empathetic educator, and he shows that same patience with every young person who walks into his lab, including English language learners and students with individualized education programs.

His results speak for themselves. In 2025, his program's all-girls welding team captured the overall state championship, and in 2026, a Central Campus student won the Missouri Welding Institute national competition against top trade schools from across the country. Through partnerships with John Deere Des Moines Works and Plumbers and Steam fitters Local 33, his students are gaining direct pathways into rewarding careers.

On September 29, Chad was surprised with the news that he had been selected as one of just 25 skilled trades teachers nationwide, out of more than 550 applicants from 49 states, to receive the 2026 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. He is one of two Iowa teachers honored this year. The full \$75,000 prize will go toward strengthening the Central Campus skilled trades program and expanding opportunities for young Iowans.

Mr. Speaker, educators like Chad Donahue are helping build the next generation of American craftsmanship. His dedication to his students, commitment to excellence. And passion for the skilled trades embodies the very best of Iowa. I congratulate Chad on this well-deserved national recognition and thank him for the lasting impact he continues to make on our students, workforce, and community.

CELEBRATING THE HONORABLE
BETSY LAMBETH

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of the Honorable Betsy Figer Lambeth, whose dedication to justice and the people of Williamson County has left a lasting impact on Central Texas.

A fifth-generation Texan, Judge Lambeth earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. After beginning her legal career in Midland, she moved to Williamson County in 1987, where she built a respected practice in civil, family, juvenile, and child welfare law before opening her own firm in 1997.

In 2012, Judge Lambeth made history as the first woman elected district judge in Williamson County. Since taking the bench in 2013, she has served with fairness, integrity, and compassion. Her fellow judges elected her Local Administrative Judge of the Williamson County District Courts in 2015, recognizing her exceptional leadership.

Her dedication to public service extends beyond the bench through her longstanding involvement with organizations that strengthen the Williamson County community. She has served for many years on the Board of Direc-

tors of R.O.C.K. Ride On Center for Kids, an organization that enriches the lives of children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted services. She has also supported local schools, civic organizations, and numerous community initiatives, demonstrating her enduring commitment to serving others both inside and outside the courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Betsy Lambeth's career reflects a steadfast commitment to justice, leadership, and public service. It is my honor to recognize her outstanding accomplishments and thank her for her years of faithful service to the people of Central Texas.

HONORING DOUG MCCONNELL

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Doug McConnell for his advocacy for parks, open space, and environmental causes. Jack London Park Partners is honoring Doug McConnell's legacy at their annual Gala, which raises funds to provide education, preservation, conservation, recreation, and community access.

Doug McConnell devoted his career to inspiring appreciation for the natural, cultural, and historic resources of California and the American West. Through award-winning television programs, he introduced millions of viewers to parks, trails, public lands, small communities, and environmental stewardship efforts.

Doug was a television journalist, producer, and host specializing in environmental and community storytelling. He served as the host and senior editor of the local program Bay Area Backroads on KRON-TV, one of the longest running regional television programs in the United States. He was also the creator, producer, and host of OpenRoad with Doug McConnell. In addition to his work on television programs, Doug was the co-founder and Managing Partner of Convergence Media Productions, a San Francisco Baykeeper Advisory Board member, an Alaska Conservation Foundation board member and a founder of the Alaska Public Forum.

Doug McConnell's work fostered public awareness, conservation advocacy, outdoor recreation, and civic engagement throughout Northern California and beyond. His contributions to environmental education and public service were recognized through numerous honors, including multiple Emmy Awards, the Harold Gilliam Award for environmental reporting, designation as an Honorary Ranger by California State Parks and the National Park Service, volunteer of the Year by the San Francisco Bay Trail Project, and Humanitarian of the Year by the Marin Humane Society.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Doug McConnell for his legacy of exceptional service to our local parks, environment, and community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

REMEMBERING XAVIEN HARRISON

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Nashville Town Councilman and Pastor Xavien Harrison, who passed away on August 11, 2026. He was 53 years old. I join the Nash County community in mourning his passing and in honoring a life devoted to service, faith, and community.

Xavien was a devoted public servant, pastor, and advocate for young people who believed deeply in the power of community. A graduate of Shaw University, he brought a wide range of experience to his ministry and his public service, including backgrounds in law enforcement and middle school education. As a youth pastor, he invested in the next generation, helping young people see their full potential. He served as a board member for the Down East Partnership for Children in Rocky Mount, helping ensure children have the opportunities they need to learn and succeed. He also volunteered as an All Pro Dads facilitator and supported the Nash Central Middle School Parent Teacher Organization.

He brought that same spirit of service to the Nashville Town Council, where he was first elected in 2023, and to his role as pastor at Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church. Xavien worked to build partnerships and authentic relationships that made his community stronger. Colleagues and friends remember him for his honesty, encouragement, and genuine commitment to building meaningful relationships.

His compassion and commitment to Nashville left a lasting mark on eastern North Carolina. Xavien's legacy lives on in the young people he mentored, the neighbors he served, and the community he worked tirelessly to strengthen.

Mr. Speaker, we pray for Jacquetta, his family, the Philadelphia Missionary Baptist Church, and the people of Nashville. We stand with them during this difficult time. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Xavien Harrison.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
KATHY DEER

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 21 years of service that Kathy Deer has given to the City of Pearl. Serving as the Executive Director of the Pearl Chamber of Commerce, she has shown diligence in creating a business-friendly environment in Pearl, overseen new business ribbon cuttings, celebrated local first responders, and supported the City of Pearl in countless other ways.

At the end of 2026, Kathy will retire from the Pearl Chamber of Commerce. Kathy has given Pearl so much of her time and leadership as she has worked to build a vibrant business community. Kathy's dedication will positively impact the City of Pearl and the surrounding

area for many years to come. I am thankful for the opportunity to recognize and honor Kathy Deer's unwavering commitment to the City of Pearl for the last 21 years, and I wish her the best in retirement.

HONORING DEIRDRE M. JACOBS

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Deirdre M. Jacobs. Assistant City Manager for the City of Riviera Beach, on earning the prestigious designation of International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Credentialed Manager (CM).

This historic achievement makes Deirdre the first municipal executive serving the City of Riviera Beach to earn the ICMA—CM designation and the only currently active Black woman serving as an ICMA Credentialed Manager in Palm Beach County. It is the latest milestone in a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades of municipal public service.

Deirdre is a graduate of Florida A&M University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Management, and Florida State University, where she earned a Master of Public Administration. Her career in public service began with internships in the Riviera Beach City Manager's Office and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners' Human Resources Department. In 1989, she formally began her municipal career as a Budget Analyst with the City of Tallahassee.

Deirdre later joined the City of West Palm Beach, where she rose through the ranks to become a Division Program Manager in Community Development. I had the privilege of working directly with her when she served as a Special Assistant to the Mayor during my tenure as Mayor of West Palm Beach.

I am especially proud of the work we did together to uplift families in Coleman Park, a historically under-resourced neighborhood. Our efforts included building new homes, rehabilitating existing homes' improving the community center, supporting seniors, and strengthening neighborhood services and resources. Deirdre brought dedication, compassion, and a deep commitment to improving the quality of life for the families we served.

Deirdre has brought the same commitment to public service to the City of Riviera Beach, where she was unanimously appointed Interim City Manager in 2019. During a pivotal leadership transition, she helped guide the City through a significant cybersecurity attack, maintained essential municipal services, recruited professional staff for key leadership positions, strengthened City operations, and advanced important infrastructure investments.

Today, she continues to serve Riviera Beach as Assistant City Manager, bringing decades of experience, professionalism, and a deep commitment to effective and responsive local government. Her designation as an ICMA Credentialed Manager reflects not only her expertise, but also her sustained dedication to the highest standards of public service. Her career is a testament to the impact of prin-

cipled leadership and a powerful example for the next generation of public servants.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deirdre Jacobs on this historic achievement and recognizing her decades of distinguished public service. Deirdre's career reflects a lifetime commitment to professional local government and the communities we serve. Deirdre is not only a talented and dedicated public servant, but also someone who genuinely cares about people and works tirelessly to make their lives better.

I am proud to recognize her contributions to our community and call her a friend.

HONORING SOUTH OAK CLIFF HIGH SCHOOL ON ACHIEVING AN A RATING BY THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the students, faculty, staff, families, and entire community of South Oak Cliff High School in Dallas, Texas, on achieving an A rating from the Texas Education Agency.

This historic achievement reflects years of hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to academic excellence. In 2026, South Oak Cliff earned an A rating with a score of 91 out of 100—a remarkable milestone for a school with such a proud history and deep roots in the Oak Cliff community.

What makes this achievement especially remarkable is that South Oak Cliff has excelled both in the classroom and on the football field. The Golden Bears have won three state championships and made five consecutive UIL 5A State Championship appearances. They now stand among the schools that have demonstrated excellence both academically and athletically, making this a truly historic moment for South Oak Cliff and Dallas ISD.

This success reflects the dedication of generations of students, educators, coaches, families, and community leaders, as well as the leadership of Principal Dr. Willie F. Johnson.

For generations, South Oak Cliff High School has been a cornerstone of the Oak Cliff community. Today, the Golden Bears are continuing that legacy by showing that excellence can be achieved both on the field and in the classroom.

I congratulate the students, faculty, staff, families, coaches, and entire South Oak Cliff community on this historic A rating. I am proud to recognize the Golden Bears for this extraordinary achievement.

HONORING THE ALFRED MOORE CHAPTER, NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alfred Moore Chapter of the Na-

tional Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) for its generous gift of an America 250 Revolutionary War Patriots' Marker to Moore County.

On October 1, 2026, members of the Alfred Moore Chapter, descendants of Revolutionary War patriots, community leaders, and citizens will gather at the Moore County Courthouse in Carthage to dedicate this permanent tribute to the men and women whose courage, sacrifice, and service helped secure the independence of our great Nation.

It is particularly fitting this tribute to our revolutionary generation should stand in a county bearing the name of one of North Carolina's own revolutionary patriots. Both Moore County and the Alfred Moore Chapter, NSDAR, were named in honor of Alfred Moore, a Revolutionary War patriot and distinguished statesman.

Moore served as an officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War and later devoted himself to public service, ultimately serving as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States from 1800 to 1804. His legacy of patriotism and service provides a meaningful connection between this community and the revolutionary generation honored by this marker.

For more than a century, the Alfred Moore Chapter, NSDAR, has worked to preserve our history, educate future generations, promote patriotism, and serve the people of its community. This marker continues the tradition and establishes a permanent legacy for the 250th anniversary of our country in Moore County.

I am especially proud to recognize the Alfred Moore Chapter for ensuring the legacy of our revolutionary patriots is preserved here in Moore County for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today celebrating the Alfred Moore Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

HONORING THE LATE JEANET GRAYSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize the late Mrs. Jeanet Grayson, a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, daughter, friend, and devoted member of Bethel Baptist Church.

I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Jeanet Grayson was the rock and foundation of her large and loving family of 17 children, 68 grandchildren, 63 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great-grandchildren, 2 brothers, 2 nephews, 2 nieces, 2 great nephews, 1 great niece, 2 godchildren, 3 adopted daughters, 7 sisters-in-law, and 6 brothers-in-law; and

Whereas, Mrs. Grayson was entrusted with the lives of hundreds of school children and took great responsibility in caring for them as a bus driver and food service provider with Miami Dade County Public Schools, and as a bus driver and student attendant at Whole Word Christian Academy; and

Whereas, Mrs. Grayson was a founder of The Road Runners, an organization of Southwest Transportation; and

Whereas, Mrs. Grayson was a faithful member of Bethel Baptist Church, where she

sang in the choir and was a driver for the Evangelism Ministry; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Fred-erica S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the late Mrs. Jeanet Grayson for her dedication to her family and friends and her church and for her commitment to our community.

HONORING SOMERSET HILLS EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th anniversary of Somerset Hills Education Foundation. For 30 years, the foundation has dutifully pursued its vision to empower every student in the Somerset Hills School District to excel academically, develop strong character, and embrace lifelong learning.

Established in 1986, this independent non-profit has consistently dedicated itself to supporting the next generation. Through a wide range of academics professional development, and community partnership programs, they inspire students to "stand on their toes and reach for the stars."

As we commemorate this remarkable milestone, we express our sincere gratitude for Somerset Hills Education Foundation's three decades of service to Somerset Hills School District and the State of New Jersey. I wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING MIGUEL A. OTERO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear, long-time friend and Deputy Chief of Staff, Miguel A. Otero. His decades-long dedication to public service has created a long-lasting impact on our community and well beyond Florida's 26th District.

Born in New York City, New York, in 1962 to parents Mr. Eliseo Marrero Otero and Dr. Dulce Amada Otero, Miguel Otero's family moved to Miami, Florida in the late 1960s. Miguel and his sister, Dolores, grew up being taught the value of hands-on, hard work, with Miguel often accompanying his father on project, performing manual labor like painting and building. In the summer, the family would go on road trips across the country, imbuing Miguel with a deep sense of appreciation for the beauty of America and its history.

Miguel later applied these principles to his studies, earning a bachelor's of business administration at Florida International University while simultaneously working at Luria's department store. It was there that he met his loving wife of 36 years, Sheila. In 1993, Miguel officially began his long civil service career working for Alex Villalobos in the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate, working diligently as his Chief Legislative Assistant as well as his Chief of Staff.

Since his days in the Florida legislature, Miguel has consistently demonstrated his steadfast commitment to safeguarding and assisting the people of South Florida. In fact, Miguel is a proud 1996 graduate of the Miami-Dade County Citizens' Police Academy, a 2007 graduate of the U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigations Miami Division Citizens' Academy, and a 2019 graduate of the Doral Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy. Since joining my office in 2003, he has continually invested in and maintained foundational relationships in our community with consular officers, local and State-elected officials, as well as law enforcement and first responders throughout the 26th District of Florida; work critical to my effort to represent and serve my constituents.

Miguel's ethos has always been one of service. He continually looks for ways he can help others, whether that means assisting a constituent with an immigration issue, meeting with community leaders to understand their needs and concerns, reaching for something off a high shelf for a stranger at the grocery store, or caring for family members during times of illness.

As one of my trusted advisors, I can always count on Miguel to remember every detail, and he has such a great memory. He is a principled person, and his character is a direct reflection of his beliefs. In his many years of service, he has never needed nor sought the spotlight, and his integrity lies in his desire to do the right thing for the sake of doing so.

Mr. Speaker, Miguel's commitment to his community is demonstrative of the very best this country has to offer. A tireless civil servant who uses his skills to advocate for his community, a loving husband to Sheila, and a devoted father to their daughter Victoria, and a man who is relentless in his desire to serve. I am honored to know him, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

HONORING SUNSHINE CATHEDRAL, BISHOP ROBERT GRIFFIN, AND BISHOP DURRELL WATKINS FOR THEIR HISTORIC MILESTONES

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sunshine Cathedral on its 55th anniversary and honor Bishop Durrell Watkins and Bishop Robert Griffin for 20 years of faithful service to our community. Sunshine Cathedral has served as a beacon of hope, inclusion, unconditional love, and spiritual grounding in South Florida for 55 years, cultivating a vibrant, welcoming community where all individuals are celebrated.

Founded on the principles of social justice, compassion, and progressive faith, Sunshine Cathedral has continuously opened its doors to all people—standing strong as a sanctuary of refuge, empowerment, and equality.

But Sunshine Cathedral's success would not be possible without steady hands. Bishop Durrell Watkins and Bishop Robert Griffin have faithfully served Sunshine Cathedral for two decades, offering exemplary pastoral care, visionary leadership, and unwavering dedica-

tion to the congregation and the broader community. Through their 20 years of leadership in Broward County, Bishop Watkins and Bishop Griffin have championed humanitarian causes, advanced civil rights, nurtured spiritual growth, and strengthened South Florida through impactful community outreach.

The 55th anniversary of Sunshine Cathedral and the 20th anniversary of Bishop Watkins' and Bishop Griffin's Sunshine Cathedral ministry mark historic milestones of transformative service, enduring resilience, and compassionate spiritual leadership. It is my honor to recognize them for these accomplishments and extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Bishop Watkins and Bishop Griffin for achieving this milestone.

HONORING PEARSON'S CANDY COMPANY IN SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the employees and many fans of Pearson's Candy Company, the 117-year old candy producer which has been making its iconic Nut Goodie and Salted Nut Roll candies at its manufacturing facility in Saint Paul since 1957. Last month, Pearson's announced that it will be closing its West Seventh Street Saint Paul factory at the end of September, eliminating approximately 80 jobs.

Founded in 1909 by P. Edward Pearson and his brothers, Pearson's Candy Company introduced its famous Nut Goodie in 1912. Featuring maple nougat, roasted peanuts, and a milk-chocolate coating, the Nut Goodie was a hit and has been enjoyed for generations. In 1933, during the depths of the Great Depression, Pearson's debuted the Salted Nut Roll. Its vanilla nougat center, caramel layer, and salted peanut coating gave people something sweet yet filling for only 5 cents. In 1957, production moved to the current location on West Seventh Street in Saint Paul, where the beloved treats have been produced ever since.

Sadly, Pearson's Candy Company has now announced that its Saint Paul factory will end production and close its doors at the end of September, leaving about 80 employees without their jobs. The layoffs will affect positions across production, maintenance, quality control, shipping, and management. Jobs being eliminated include candy makers, packers, maintenance mechanics, boiler operators, machine operators, quality control technicians, HVAC technicians, shipping and receiving clerks, production managers, and the IT manager. While Pearson's parent company, Promise Confections, has stated that production of these iconic products will continue elsewhere, the closure marks the end of more than a century of candy manufacturing in Minnesota and will leave about 80 Saint Paul workers without jobs.

In my role as a United States Representative, I have often purchased Pearson's candies to share at special events, including with visitors, ambassadors, and dignitaries from around the world. I have lost count of how many times someone has tried one and immediately asked for another—a small testament to the enduring appeal of this Minnesota-made treat.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the Pearson's Candy Company's 117-year history of candy production in Minnesota, nearly seven decades of Nut Goodie and Salted Nut Roll production on Saint Paul's West Seventh Street, and the generations of workers and families who produced these iconic Minnesota treats.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. ROBERT TAMBOUR

HON. ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Robert Tambour, a resident of Shavertown, Pennsylvania, and a dedicated athlete, businessman, family man, and philanthropist. Born in the former Pittston Hospital in 1938, Bob was known for the development of Arena Hub Plaza shopping center, which remains an important economic hub to this day. His successful career also encompassed Tammac Corporation, golf course development, real estate, and horse breeding, among other industries.

Throughout his life, Bob took community and civic engagement seriously. He served on the boards of many important institutions in northeastern Pennsylvania, including the Wilkes-Barre Catholic Youth Center, King's College, Hospice of the Sacred Heart, Fox Hill Country Club, the Glenmaura National Golf Club, and the F.M. Kirby Center. He and his wife were repeatedly recognized for their involvement and contributions to local organizations, educational institutions, and charities.

I had the pleasure of knowing Bob from a very early age, and he was a dear friend of my grandfather. Bob will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and the entire Wilkes-Barre community. He is remembered and honored by a grateful community for a life committed to service and making northeastern Pennsylvania a better place.

HONORING DR. CARMEN BERRIOS
DELGADO

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the recognition of Dr. Carmen Berrios Delgado, a proud Puerto Rican, a brilliant educator, and now a Friends of Puerto Rico honoree.

For over a decade, Dr. Berrios Delgado has made a steadfast commitment to the betterment of her community, helping to educate, mentor, and invest in the students and young professionals of Puerto Rico.

A prolific academic, Dr. Berrios Delgado has aided many students and young professionals during her time as a faculty member at the University of Puerto Rico Aguadilla's business administration department, going above and beyond to ensure the success of Puerto Rico's best and brightest.

Dr. Berrios Delgado has sought out opportunities to provide financial assistance and in-

vestments to many students who have ideas that would expand and strengthen not only our economy, but our world. Her efforts ensure that the best of us do not go unheard and unrecognized based on their ability to pay their way.

Additionally, she has donated her time and expertise to strengthen the professional readiness of young people. She works to expose students to outside organizations and workshops that better prepare them for business-oriented careers. She has ardently pursued Puerto Rico's education, entrepreneurship, labor reforms, and economic growth, investing in the long-term goals of the island.

Dr. Berrios Delgado is recognized today as a tireless advocate for the improvement of student opportunities, and a tremendous force for good in her community.

I congratulate Dr. Berrios Delgado on this tremendous honor, and thank her for all she has done for both Puerto Rico and society at large.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL OF
THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AD-
MINISTRATION OF THE UNIVER-
SITY OF PUERTO RICO, RÍO
PIEDRAS CAMPUS

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the College of Business Administration of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus, as it celebrates its centennial anniversary (1926–2026), commemorating 100 years of academic excellence, leadership, and service to Puerto Rico.

Established in 1926 as the School of Commerce and Business Administration, the institution marked the beginning of formal higher education in business and management disciplines in Puerto Rico. Over the past century, it has played a pivotal role in preparing generations of professionals who have contributed to the island's economic development, strengthened its public and private sectors, and served communities both in Puerto Rico and abroad.

A defining milestone in the college's history came in 2013, when it earned accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This internationally recognized distinction reaffirmed the college's commitment to the highest standards of academic quality and established it as the only public institution of higher education in Puerto Rico to hold this prestigious accreditation.

Today, the college continues to advance its mission through a strong commitment to innovation, international collaboration, sustainability, and continuous academic improvement. These efforts have strengthened its reputation as a center of excellence and reinforced its role as an essential pillar of Puerto Rico's public university system.

The celebration of its centennial, under the theme "One Hundred Years Building Success Stories," provides an opportunity to reflect on the college's remarkable legacy while recognizing the invaluable contributions of its faculty, students, administrative personnel, alum-

ni, and supporters, whose dedication has shaped the institution's success throughout the past century.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize the centennial of the College of Business Administration of the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus. May this milestone serve not only as a celebration of its distinguished history, but also as an inspiration for future generations to continue advancing excellence in education, leadership, innovation, and service to Puerto Rico.

RECOGNIZING VALDOSTA STATE
LAMBDA MU CHAPTER OF SIGMA
CHI FRATERNITY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lambda Mu Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at Valdosta State University, as it celebrates its 15th anniversary.

Founded on October 11, 2011, Lambda Mu has spent the past 15 years building a tradition of friendship, leadership, service, and scholarship.

Over the years, the chapter has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation through Derby Days, provided food to Second Harvest Food Bank, and invested in student life at Valdosta State University.

These efforts embody the founding principles of Sigma Chi: "friendship, justice, and learning." The chapter has also received numerous honors and recognition over the years, including recognition from fellow Sigma Chi and former Senator Saxby Chambliss when the chapter was founded.

I congratulate the brothers, alumni, and friends of Lambda Mu on 15 years of excellence, brotherhood, and service.

In Hoc—and Go Blazers.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WAR-
RANT OFFICER SETH L.
OLMSTEAD

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of Warrant Officer Seth L. Olmstead, a devoted soldier, husband, son, brother, and friend whose dedication to his family, community, and country will not be forgotten.

W.O. Olmstead pursued his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot when he entered the United States Army as a warrant officer candidate. He went on to become an AH-64 Apache pilot, serving at Fort Hood with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division. During his time at Fort Hood, W.O. Olmstead served alongside fellow soldiers as part of the Army's aviation community, turning his lifelong passion for flying into a career dedicated to serving his country. Raised in Bell County, Texas, Mr. Olmstead graduated

from Harker Heights High School, where he formed lasting friendships and continued to develop an interest in aviation. His early enthusiasm for flying, along with the dedication and determination he demonstrated throughout his life, helped shape the path that would eventually lead him to military service.

Beyond his military service, Mr. Olmstead will be remembered for the love and joy he brought to those around him. W.O. Olmstead was deeply devoted to his wife, Lauren, and cherished the time he spent with his family and friends.

Warrant Officer 1 Seth Logan Olmstead demonstrated dedication to his country and those he loved. On behalf of a grateful community, I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and fellow soldiers, and I honor his life, service, and enduring legacy.

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NVMS CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the NVMS Conflict Resolution Center as it celebrates its 35th anniversary of service to Fairfax County and communities throughout Northern Virginia.

For 3.5 decades, NVMS has helped individuals, families, workplaces, organizations, and communities navigate conflict through dialogue, understanding, and constructive problem-solving. Originally known as the Northern Virginia Mediation Service, NVMS grew from a student initiative at George Mason University and became a nonprofit organization in 1990.

Since then, NVMS has grown into an important community resource, providing mediation in civil, family, workplace, community, and commercial matters, as well as facilitation, restorative justice services, and conflict resolution training. Through this work, NVMS has helped thousands of our neighbors find common ground and resolve disagreements in ways that strengthen relationships and communities.

The work of conflict resolution is often quiet work. It requires patience, empathy, careful listening, and a willingness to bring people together even when finding common ground seems difficult. Those values are essential to a strong and connected community, and NVMS has spent 35 years putting them into practice here in Northern Virginia.

NVMS has also made an enduring investment in the people who carry this work forward. By training mediators, facilitators, community leaders, and other professionals in the skills necessary to address conflict constructively, the organization has extended its impact far beyond the cases and conversations it directly supports. Those individuals bring the lessons of collaboration, communication, and mutual respect into workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, and organizations throughout our region.

This anniversary is also an opportunity to recognize the many people who have sustained NVMS over the past 35 years. Its staff, board members, volunteers, mediators, community partners, and supporters have each

played a role in building an organization dedicated to helping our neighbors work through differences and build stronger relationships. Their commitment reflects the spirit of service and civic engagement that makes Fairfax County such a special place to live and work. As the Representative for Virginia's 11th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize an organization that has made such a lasting contribution to the community we call home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the staff, mediators, volunteers, board members, partners, and supporters of the NVMS Conflict Resolution Center on 35 years of service and in wishing them continued success in the years ahead.

HONORING LOUIS "LOUIE" KRUPA ON BECOMING A MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL UMPIRE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Louis "Louie" Krupa of Sault Ste. Marie and Rudyard, Michigan, on achieving a lifelong dream of becoming a Major League Baseball umpire. Louie's journey to the Major Leagues was not a stroke of luck, but rather a testament to the power of perseverance, dedication, and a passion for the game of baseball.

Louie developed his love for umpiring early, working his first Little League game when he was just 12 years old. But even before stepping onto the diamond, friends and family recall that when attending baseball games, Louie's attention often drifted from the players to the men behind the plate and scattered across the field. That fascination grew into a calling. He enrolled in umpire school in 2014, and while a professional opportunity did not immediately follow, he refused to walk away. He returned in 2015, determined to earn his place in professional baseball, and this time, his perseverance paid off.

Louie worked his first professional game in the Gulf Coast League in the summer of 2015, launching a career defined by steady advancement and hard-earned respect. He moved through the New York-Penn League in 2016, the Midwest League in 2017, and the Florida State League in 2018 and 2019. In August of 2019, he earned a well-deserved promotion to Double-A and an assignment to the Eastern League.

Following the cancellation of the 2020 Minor League season due to COVID-19, Louie returned to the Eastern League in 2021 and was named a crew chief in 2022. In 2023, he reached Triple-A, where he has continued to officiate games across the country. In 2024 and 2025, Louie was selected to work the Arizona Fall League, an important step for umpires pursuing opportunities in the Major Leagues.

Louie's hard work reached its ultimate reward in 2026 when he was invited to Major League Spring Training for the second consecutive year and received his Major League uniform number, No. 27. On April 24, 2026, he made his Major League debut behind the plate for the Colorado Rockies at the New York Mets. Since then, he has continued working both Major League and Triple-A games.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in congratulating Louie Krupa on reaching the Major Leagues. I wish him continued success as he begins this exciting new chapter of his career.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONTRA COSTA SENIOR LEGAL SERVICES

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Contra Costa Senior Legal Services (CCSLs) as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. Since 1976, CCSLS has worked tirelessly to improve quality of life and provide accessible legal assistance, advocacy, and education for Contra Costa's seniors.

CCSLs has demonstrated their steadfast commitment to serving vulnerable populations in our community. Around 1,000 clients per year receive guidance with issues that adversely affect the lives of seniors. By providing legal advice, advocacy, educational resources, and representation with tenants' rights, consumer protection, simple wills, and public benefits issues, CCSLS has successfully protected their clients from physical, financial, and emotional abuse. From helping clients stay in their homes to navigating Social Security benefits, CCSLS has shown their dedication to providing accessible support to our community's seniors.

They also work to educate our community members through local outreach events, providing seniors with the tools necessary to recognize identity theft scams or signs of elder abuse—ensuring assets are safeguarded and legal remedies are sought. County-wide, CCSLS' free legal clinics are staffed by pro-bono attorneys who provide information and advice on general legal issues. As a result, they have helped their clients avoid eviction, fight against unsafe housing, legally grant Power of Attorney, appeal Social Security denials, and file restraining orders against those who commit elder abuse. Last year alone, CCSLS helped recover over \$190,000 for Contra Costa's seniors, provided 530 hours of pro-bono service, and hosted 106 free legal clinics. CCSLS' work has touched the lives of thousands of Contra Costa residents, and they have had a profound impact in our community.

Please join me in honoring Contra Costa Senior Legal Services for their critical work and in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LYNETTE VILLANO

HON. ROBERT P. BRESNAHAN, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BRESNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lynette Villano, a cherished member of the Luzerne County community and lifelong northeastern Pennsylvanian who passed away last month.

Lynette was born in Wilkes-Barre and spent the majority of her life in West Pittston, where she was an avid member of the community.

From the West Pittston Community Pool to West Pittston Little League to local volunteering and fundraising, Lynette was known and loved by many for her loyalty. She was also incredibly involved in the political community, serving as the first female chair of the Luzerne County Republican Committee. You could not be involved in NEPA politics without knowing Lynette.

Lynette fought a courageous battle with breast cancer and will be remembered for her strength and kindness. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends, the West Pittston community, and all who she knew throughout Luzerne County.

RECOGNIZING FLOOD MINISTRIES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Flood Ministries on its 20th anniversary and to honor years of steadfast service to the most underserved members of the Kern County community.

In 2006, dedicated volunteers from The Bridge Bible Church gathered to establish Flood Ministries under the belief that every person experiencing homelessness should be treated with dignity and respect. For the past 20 years, Flood has put that belief into action, providing quality care and support to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Through several key partnerships, Flood has expanded its reach throughout Bakersfield and Kern County. Working with the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative and the Housing Authority of the County of Kern, it has provided personalized case management and housing services for homeless individuals struggling with severe mental and physical health challenges. Flood has also partnered with Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, the County of Kern, Kern Health Systems, and the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative to establish Navigation Centers throughout the Central Valley. These centers offer dedicated housing support that helps individuals find and transition into permanent homes. Flood also works with local leaders and first responders to connect people in need with critical services.

For two decades, Flood has taken a hands-on approach to addressing homelessness. Its Welcome Home project provides vital household items to help turn empty spaces into safe and dignified homes, while its mobile and fixed shower services provide an important resource for people in need. These efforts, strengthened by Flood's partnerships throughout the community, have helped maintain a 90 percent longterm housing retention rate. Today, Flood is focused on early intervention through its Bakersfield and Rural Youth Homeless Demonstration Programs, providing personalized care to vulnerable young adults and stopping chronic homelessness before it takes root.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Flood Ministries on 20 years of dedicated service to the people of Kern County and in wishing it continued success for years to come.

HONORING ADDIE L. GREENE

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend Addie L. Greene, a trailblazing public servant whose decades of leadership have left a lasting mark on Palm Beach County and the State of Florida. Addie and I had the privilege of serving side-by-side in the Florida Legislature, and I saw firsthand her strength, integrity, and deep commitment to the people she represented.

A dedicated educator before entering public office, Addie began her political career in Mangonia Park, where she served on the Town Council and became the town's first African American woman mayor. In 1992, she made history as the first Black person from Palm Beach County elected to the Florida Legislature, serving four terms in the Florida House of Representatives.

She continued her distinguished public service as a member of the Palm Beach County Commission from 2000 to 2009, including service as Chair. Throughout her career, Addie has been a steadfast advocate for working families, underserved communities, and greater opportunity and representation for all.

Addie Greene did more than make history—she opened doors and brought others through them. I am proud to call her my friend, and even prouder to have served alongside her. I thank Addie for her extraordinary lifetime of public service and for all she has done to make Palm Beach County a stronger, fairer, and more inclusive community.

HONORING THE LAKE COUNTY WINE ALLIANCE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lake County Wine Alliance for their 25 years of service to our community.

The Lake County Wine Alliance is a cooperative composed of Lake County wineries, winegrape growers, vineyard owners, related businesses, and community supporters. Formed in 2000, the Lake County Wine Alliance is a nonprofit organization operated under the guidance of a seven-member volunteer board of directors with the purpose of supporting charitable and other local programs. Each year, the Lake County Wine Auction donates its proceeds to local organizations and charities whose activities are in keeping with the Alliance's charter.

The Lake County Wine Alliance is a cornerstone of philanthropy in Lake County, providing sustained support for youth education, arts, agriculture, and community well-being. They have raised over three million dollars in support of Lake County nonprofits. Their beneficiaries include local organizations such as all five Lake County High Schools Fine Arts and Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs, several local culinary programs, Lake County

4-H, Lake County Rural Arts Initiative, World Wide Healing Hands, Friends of the Lake County Library, and the Clearlake Senior Center.

The Lake County Wine Alliance has grown thanks to the leadership of President Kaj Ahlmann, Vice President Marie Beery, Treasurer Robert Rouniguiere, Secretary Beth Havarilla, and Directors Weston Seifert, Angie Shannon, and Raven Sprauge.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Lake County Wine Alliance for their dedicated service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today for their 25th anniversary.

HONORING DR. L.G. PINKSTON SR. HIGH SCHOOL ON ACHIEVING AN A RATING BY THE TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the students, faculty, families, and entire community of Dr. L.G. Pinkston Sr. High School in Dallas, Texas, on achieving an A rating from the Texas Education Agency.

This historic achievement is the result of years of steady growth, hard work, and a sustained commitment to excellence. In just 3 years, Pinkston has risen from a D rating in 2023 to a C, then a B, and now an A rating—demonstrating what can happen when students, educators, families, and a community remain committed to progress.

The Texas Education Agency also recognized Pinkston for student progress, social studies performance, and its work helping all student groups succeed. These accomplishments reflect not simply a single year's performance, but the dedication and consistency of a school community determined to ensure that every student has every opportunity to succeed.

Pinkston is preparing its students for success well beyond high school. The school offers college and career pathways that include NAF academies, career and technical education programs, technology and healthcare pathways, and early-college opportunities. Through its H-TECH healthcare pathway, students can work toward an associate degree alongside their high school diplomas.

This achievement is also a testament to the leadership and vision of Principal Tameca Ward, the teachers, and staff who support students every day, and the families and community members who continue to believe in the promise of Pinkston's students.

For generations, Dr. L.G. Pinkston Sr. High School has been an important part of Dallas' West Side. Today, the Pinkston Vikings are building on that legacy and showing what is possible through perseverance, high expectations, opportunity, and community.

I congratulate the students, faculty, staff, families, and community of Dr. L.G. Pinkston Sr. High School on this historic A rating. Their achievement is a source of pride for Dallas, and I look forward to seeing all that the Pinkston community will accomplish in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING GURUDEV SRI SRI
RAVI SHANKAR

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in his 70th year and honor his 45 years of humanitarian and spiritual service through the Art of Living Foundation to communities around the world.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was born on May 13, 1956, in Papanasam, Tamil Nadu. Before becoming a spiritual leader, Shankar studied physics at St. Joseph's College in Bangalore. He has been a tireless advocate for peace across conflict zones, eventually earning recognition as the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian honor.

The Art of Living Foundation, founded in 1981, proudly commemorates 45 years of promoting mental wellbeing, stress relief, conflict resolution, and meditation programs. A globally revered humanitarian, spiritual leader, and ambassador of peace, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar expanded the Art of Living Foundation through more than 180 countries and reached over 800 million people.

Shankar and the Art of Living Foundation achieved international success for pioneering the SKY Breath Meditation, also known as the Sudarshan Kriya. Researchers and leading institutions worldwide recognize it as an effective measure in reducing stress, anxiety, PTSD symptoms, and depression.

The Art of Living Foundation has contributed to a number of humanitarian causes, including providing educational support in India and improving water pollution in India. The Foundation champions youth and women's empowerment, rural development programs, and educational outreach initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and the Art of Living Foundation on their 70th and 45th years, respectively, for their service to the international community.

RECOGNIZING JAMEN MONBARREN
OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jamen Monbarren, District Manager with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his outstanding leadership and service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. Through this important initiative, utility professionals volunteer their time and expertise to help bring electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. As a District Manager and supervisor, Mr. Monbarren demonstrated leadership by example, joining his colleagues in this important mission and helping ensure their work was completed with professionalism, teamwork, and respect for the families they served.

Access to reliable electricity is something most of us take for granted, but its impact is

profound. Electricity allows children to study after dark, families to safely preserve food and medicine, and elders to live with greater safety and comfort. By participating in Light Up Navajo, Mr. Monbarren helped extend these basic opportunities to families far beyond WREC's traditional service territory.

This mission reflects the very best of the cooperative spirit—neighbors helping neighbors and skilled professionals using their talents to improve the lives of others. I commend Mr. Jamen Monbarren for his leadership, compassion, and commitment to service. His willingness to answer this call reflects great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING AGENORIA LUCILLE
SPEARMAN PASCHAL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor retired educator Mrs. Agenoria Lucille Spearman Paschal, a legendary pioneer in education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools; a visionary ahead of her time; an advocate for students, teachers, parents, our schools; and a dedicated community servant. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal served Miami-Dade County Public Schools and her community for over 40 years, inspiring thousands of students and developing programs that resulted in groundbreaking changes and improvements within the Miami-Dade County Public School System, for which she was honored with numerous awards and national recognition; and

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal held the positions of teacher, assistant principal, principal, and director, and implemented programs including the Mobile Reading Clinic, Non-Graded Grouping, Magic Circle Awareness, and extended Public Library Services; and

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal was instrumental in the writing of an educational proposal that led to the opening of the first segregated elementary school in the Miami-Dade County Public School System, initially called Primary School C and later named Thena Crowder Elementary School; and

Whereas, Mrs. Paschal opened Olinda Elementary School in Liberty City, served as its first principal and successfully ran its Triple-T Program, a collaboration between Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the University of Miami that provided training and further education for teachers and paraprofessionals, many of who went on to become assistant principals, principals, and directors who also made outstanding contributions to education; 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, commend Mrs. Agenoria Lucille Spearman Paschal, for her leadership and outstanding contributions to education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and for her selfless, unwavering commitment and dedication to our community.

HONORING ROBERT SALCEDO

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate not only the recognition of Robert Salcedo as a Friends of Puerto Rico award recipient, but also his selfless and unrelenting work toward healthcare affordability.

Mr. Salcedo is the founder and CEO of OcyonBio, a pharmaceutical development and manufacturing organization. In his over 25 years specializing in biotechnology, specifically in his time helping to lead Amgen, Mr. Salcedo has molded the strategic vision for projects that have brought tremendous business and manufacturing to Puerto Rico, on top of managing billion-dollar operations.

The focus of Mr. Salcedo's work is gene and cell therapy, an endeavor he carries out to make this lifesaving healthcare affordable and widely accessible. Mr. Salcedo is not only generous in his efforts, he is also hugely successful. Throughout his career, he pioneered a new model of biological engineering and manufacturing. He worked to secure massive biologic manufacturing increases and has forged powerful strategic partnerships to continue innovating and producing at the highest of standards.

Mr. Salcedo has made monumental strides toward shaping Puerto Rico into a land of opportunity and manufacturing for biotechnology and life sciences. He has invested over \$100 million dollars into the infrastructure and energy sectors of the island. He has taken care in establishing OcyonBio's base right near the campus of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez to not only provide jobs to current workers, but to create opportunities for the university's most talented students. His contributions have built and shaped the infrastructure, technology, and expertise of the island in a way that sets Puerto Ricans up for long-term success.

Under his tutelage, Mr. Salcedo's companies have built a foundation on which the industry of biologics in Puerto Rico can operate for decades to come. He lifts those who need an opportunity, and he invests his time and efforts into communities that can truly feel the impact. He is a shining example of what it means to be a good, effective, and upright leader. Mr. Salcedo is exactly what it means to be a friend to Puerto Rico.

I congratulate Robert Salcedo on this extraordinary honor and thank him for the leadership he has displayed and the work that he has done.

RECOGNIZING ST. MARYS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize St. Marys, Georgia, for being named the prettiest town in Georgia by Architectural Digest.

St. Marys, a great representation of Georgia in this contest, is in the most southeastern corner of the State.

The town is proudly known for serving as the gateway city to Cumberland Island, Georgia's largest barrier island and home to famous architecture consisting of the Dunghness Ruins and the Greyfield Inn mansion.

St. Marys is recognized for its beautiful downtown oak-lined streets draped in Spanish moss, 19th century churches, and grand historic homes showcasing classic southern design.

Some of the notable architecture in the community consist of Orange Hall, an 1830 Greek Revival Mansion and the first Presbyterian Church, which houses a bell cast by Paul Revere's foundry. It is a great honor to represent the town of St. Marys, and I could not be prouder of the rich history this place holds.

HONORING EDWARD J. BRAYNON,
JR.

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr., a dedicated community-servant, civil rights activist, role model, and mentor. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Dr. Braynon has been a loyal and faithful member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for 68 years and has served as Basileus of Sigma Alpha Chapter, Florida's State Representative, First Vice Seventh Representative (Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi), Seventh District Representative, First Vice Grand Basileus, and Grand Basileus, and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon's leadership, vision, and integrity have played a vital role in building, binding, and strengthening Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Alpha Chapter. He is credited with remaining steadfast to enhancing and promoting the organization's principles of Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance, and Uplift, and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon as Grand Basileus of Sigma Alpha Chapter played a key role in a massive "Get Out The Vote," initiative where Omega chapters around the country were actively involved and helped win Jimmy Carter the Presidency with the largest Back vote in history and landed Dr. Braynon an invitation along with several other Black leaders to a "White-House Luncheon," and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon touched and impacted the lives of countless young men as a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project and won the admiration and respect of our community for his activism and community service, and

Whereas, Dr. Braynon used his dental skills to meet the needs of our community, served as a member of the Dental Society providing leadership and guidance to new generations of dental professionals, and was a member of numerous civic and community organizations dedicated to the betterment of the quality of life for South Floridians, and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, FedERICA S. Wilson, a Member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am proud to recognize and honor Dr. Edward J. Braynon, Jr., for his unwavering commitment to Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,

Inc., community service, our youth, and his profession.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
GENERAL KEVIN D. ADMIRAL

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant General Kevin D. Admiral on his nomination to serve as the next Commanding General of United States Army Europe-Africa, Allied Land Command, NATO, Germany.

For the people of Central Texas, Lt. Gen. Admiral's departure is especially significant. He first served as the Commanding General of the 1st Cavalry Division and later as the Commanding General of III Armored Corps and Fort Hood, where he oversaw one of the Army's premier armored formations.

Throughout his tenure, Lt. Gen. Admiral made readiness and taking care of people central to his leadership, emphasizing a combat-ready force while ensuring soldiers, civilians, and families had the support they needed. He also strengthened Fort Hood's relationship with communities throughout Central Texas, recognizing the installation's importance not only to our military but to the entire region. His professionalism, accessibility, and commitment to mission success have left a lasting impression, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

I have had the privilege of knowing and working closely with Lt. Gen. Admiral during his time at Fort Hood, and I can attest that the pride he took in building a ready force there was matched only by his humility in leading it. That same standard of excellence did not go unnoticed in Washington. The job he and his soldiers did at Fort Hood helped bring him to the attention of Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, paving the way for his new mission leading U.S. Army Europe-Africa. It has been an honor to call him a friend and a partner in service to Central Texas.

On behalf of the people of Texas' 31st Congressional District, I thank Lt. Gen. Admiral for his distinguished service to Fort Hood, Central Texas, and our Nation. I congratulate him on this well-deserved opportunity and wish him, his family, and the soldiers under his command continued success in this important new assignment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF SCOTT HAGGERTY

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Scott Haggerty.

Scott served as an Alameda County Supervisor for 24 years. First elected to represent District 1 in 1996, he worked tirelessly on behalf of working families, championed transportation initiatives, and supported vulnerable populations within the community.

During his tenure in public service, Scott drove many initiatives that improved the lives and wellbeing of his constituents. Transportation was often at the forefront of these initiatives. He spearheaded the Valley Link Rail Project, a planned zero-emission passenger rail system linking the Dublin BART station and the Mountain House community in San Joaquin County. As a leader on the Alameda County Transportation Commission and Metropolitan Transportation Commission, he oversaw key transit ventures such as the BART extension to Warm Springs, carpool and express lanes on Interstate 580, and the Highway 84 Expressway. Because of his efforts, Scott was named the California Transportation Foundation's Person of the Year in 2020.

Scott was also a proponent of renewable energy. In 2021, the Scott Haggerty Wind Energy Center brought energy to more than 45,000 homes through 23 new wind turbines in Altamont Pass.

Scott's leadership and service touched many lives in the community. Through his involvement with various non-profits, such as serving as a board member on Alameda County Meals on Wheels and chairing the Twin Valley District of the Boy Scouts of America, Scott worked diligently to serve his region. He was also involved in the creation of Goodness Village, which provides a safe and supportive community of tiny homes to previously unhoused individuals in the Tri-Valley.

Sadly, Scott passed away on July 5, 2026. Please join us in honoring Scott for his unwavering dedication to the community, his outstanding leadership, and his invaluable contributions to our region.

HONORING MARIE BEERY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marie Beery, as she is recognized for her 25 years of extraordinary dedication and service to the Lake County Wine Alliance.

Marie was born in Indiana. She began her professional career as an Accounting Specialist with Kendall-Jackson Winery, where she met winemaker Jed Steele. Together, they founded Steele Winery, contributing significantly to the growth and recognition of our Lake County wine community. She later founded the Saw Shop Gallery & Bistro, cultivating it into one of Lake County's most beloved and successful dining establishments. Her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence helped elevate the region's culinary landscape.

Marie is a founding member of the Lake County Wine Alliance. Under Marie's leadership as Vice President, as well as her creativity and unwavering persistence, the Wine Alliance has raised over \$3.2 million for vital programs throughout Lake County, more than any other local nonprofit organization. All five Lake County high schools have collectively received over \$1 million from the Alliance, supporting Music, Theatre, and Art Departments, as well as Future Farmers of America (FFA) and Culinary Programs.

In addition to the Wine Alliance, she serves as the Treasurer for Kelseyville Sunrise Rotary Club, was a past treasurer of Kelseyville Business Association, and is also a Meals on Wheels delivery volunteer at the Kelseyville Senior Center. Marie is also a Rotary International Paul Harris Diamond Circle Member.

Marie is known for her generosity, reliability, and steadfast commitment to her community. She is always willing to lend a hand, step into leadership when needed, and bring people together to accomplish meaningful work. Her perseverance and community-minded spirit have made her an indispensable part of Lake County's philanthropic landscape.

Marie is one of five siblings and remains closely connected to her large extended family who still reside in Indiana. She is the mother of one daughter and another son and daughter from her past marriage to the late Jed Steele.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Marie Beery for her years of tireless dedication to our community and through the Lake County Wine Alliance. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING THE VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C., on September 23, 2026, with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on September 23 answered our Nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service, and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to submit the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude. I include in the RECORD their names:

Kenneth C. Allison, Dennis J. Archer, Robert C. Arthurs, Michael B. Bagby, Stephen H. Bailey, Dale T. Beeson, Gerald G. Bernatski, Craig Boss, Verne L. Brace, Henry F. Brill, Turhan P. Brown, Kenneth C. Butler, Richard Cadena, Glenn Cekus, Michael J. Celeski, Gary W. Clausen, Leonard M. Corso, Cloys I. Darnall, Alfred P. Davidson, Dick DeForte, Dan H. DeMass, Richard Doughty, Anthony Drobot, John R. Farrell, Larry D. Fikes, Edward Fisher, Gerald A. Frank, Joseph Gandurski, Gerald Gende, Leroy C. Gesbeck, III, Vanessa Gibbs, Michael Giera, Charles F. Gilbert, Paul E. Glombowski, John Gorby,

Richard M. Graham, Hiram Grau, Robert Groth, Robert J. Harrison, Lavern E. Hein, Richard J. Hejna, William G. Hendry, Terry Hillard, Thomas J. Hoover, Daniel W. Horton, William A. Jackson, Joseph Jedlovec, Jr., Rudolph Jennings, Laurence J. Jones, Burton L. Kline, Edward T. Knutsen, James D. Kunitzer, James M. Kush, Dennis J. Lake, Richard Lebeter, William Leider, Robert J. Lenhart, Jr., Steven Leshner, Harry Lopez, Henry Mazich, Walter H. McBride, III, Thomas McGladdery, David W. McNaughton, Michael J. Meyers, William H. Miller, Randall L. Mitchell, Louis Molina, Martin T. Montano, Jimmy Mote, James Mukoyama, Jr., James A. Murphy, Sr., John Myers, Ernest R. Neely, Chris Orozco, Jack Dean Parr, Gerald H. Patterson, Gerald M. Pawlus, Arthur D. Pinelli, Jon G. Platakis, Eugene A. Potter, Michael T. Ray, Donald W. Reutzler, Jr., Barry E. Roberts, Dennis H. Robison, Lawrence W. Rogers, Jose A. Rosales, Roy D. Schickedanz, Anthony S. Risichella, Allen Sellers, Stephen E. Sellers, Richard Shronts, Raymond E. Siebert, Richard Sollinger, Richard I. Surma, Thomas N. Svestka, John ter Horst, Guadalupe Trevino, Robert Van Tholen, Louis M. Vidales, Donald R. Voris, Robert M. Wagner, Jacob Walker, Jr., Charles T. Wesley, Robert H. Wolf, Douglas M. Woods, Ronald L. York, Robert L. Young, Robert A. Zanella, and James W. Zita.

RECOGNIZING GARY STEELE OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Gary Steele of Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) for his continued dedication to the Light Up Navajo Project and his service as a Multimedia Contact during WREC's second mission supporting this worthwhile initiative. Mr. Steele previously helped share the story of WREC employees who answered the call to bring electricity to Navajo families who had lived without power for generations. His continued participation in this second mission demonstrates an enduring commitment to ensuring that both the work and the people behind this remarkable effort are recognized. Documenting the Light Up Navajo mission helps tell a story that goes far beyond electrical infrastructure. It shows what electricity means in the daily lives of families—children having light to study after dark, parents being able to safely preserve food and medicine, and elders enjoying greater safety and comfort. It also captures the compassion, teamwork, and commitment of the men and women who volunteer their skills to make those moments possible.

By helping share these stories, Mr. Steele helps others understand both the need that remains and the tremendous difference this initiative is making. I commend Mr. Gary Steele for his continued commitment to Light Up Navajo and for helping tell this powerful story of service, compassion, and community. His efforts reflect great credit upon WREC and our community.

HONORING ALBERT J. CORDERO

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the accomplishments of Albert J. Cordero and to recognize him as a Friends of Puerto Rico award recipient.

Mr. Cordero founded and serves as the managing director of ethree solutions, a Puerto Rican-based management consulting firm that operates across Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and the United States. Over his 30 years of expertise, he has turned his organization into a regional powerhouse specializing operational excellence, digital transformation, technology, and artificial intelligence.

In the 13 years that ethree solutions has existed, Mr. Cordero has expanded the organization to serve over 90 clients and 150 projects across sectors. Perhaps what is most impactful about Mr. Cordero's work is that he has established a strong base in Puerto Rico, delivering digital and technological services across the entire region and, by extension, strengthening the entire communities. Mr. Cordero has further committed to helping small and medium-sized businesses navigate the ever-expanding AI landscape by bringing technological solutions to local professionals and businesses.

Mr. Cordero has notably and consistently recognized the exceptional talent, business, and economic opportunities present within Puerto Rico. He has demonstrated his commitment to the expansion of the island as a competitive hub for high-value services and technology, ensuring a productive and successful future.

Mr. Cordero is a fierce ally and advocate for Puerto Rico, speaking out frequently and ardently about the island's professional potential and helping champion the expansion of local business and development. He is not only expanding his business; he is ensuring that other businessowners in Puerto Rico have the tools and guidance needed for their own ventures to be successful.

Today, I congratulate Albert J. Cordero on his remarkable achievements and affirm that he is a true friend and ally to Puerto Rico.

RECOGNIZING THE LIVING VINE

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Living Vine, a Savannah maternity home celebrating its 30th anniversary this September.

Since opening its doors in 1996, the nonprofit maternity home has provided pregnant women and their babies with a safe residential environment, life skills preparation, and spiritual support aimed at helping mothers build stability and work toward independence.

This organization is one of Savannah's crown jewels and stands as a testament to the heart and care of the Savannah community.

Countless mothers and their babies have passed through the doors of this organization, and are much better for having done so.

The work that The Living Vine does is crucial and often overlooked by many.

I would like to join the countless babies and mothers helped by The Living Vine in saying thank you for their work, and please do not stop any time soon.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 DEONTRE TREVON HUEY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life and service of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Deontre Trevon Huey, a dedicated soldier, aviator, father, brother and son whose life was guided by service, leadership, and an enduring commitment to his family and country.

In 2014, Chief Huey began his military career as an 88M Transportation Operator, marking the start of 12 years of dedicated service to our Nation. He served at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Fort Bragg, and Fort Hood. Seeking a new direction in his military career, he attended Warrant Officer Candidate School and pursued his goal of becoming an Army aviator. In February 2022, he began serving as an AH-64E Apache pilot at Fort Hood. Through flying, Chief Huey found a true passion that brought him great pride and fulfillment.

A proud native of Killeen, Texas, Chief Huey graduated from Killeen High School, where he displayed leadership on and off the football field. He later attended Temple College and Oklahoma Panhandle State University. A gifted artist, his love for drawing was another reflection of the passion and creativity he brought to his life.

Above all, Chief Huey will be remembered for the love and joy he brought to those around him. He leaves behind his children, Naomi Victoria and Ezekeial Titus; his parents, Velvet Dancer-Huey and Douglas Huey; his brothers; and many family members and friends.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Deontre Trevon Huey represented the very best of service, leadership, and dedication to our Nation. His legacy will live on through his family, fellow soldiers, and the place he proudly called home. On behalf of a grateful community, I extend my deepest condolences to his family and friends, and I honor his life, his service, and his legacy.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR ARTHUR WELLS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Major Arthur Wells who has recently been selected as

the South Florida Federal Employee of the year.

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells has been a devoted leader and driving force in his community and is an active advocate for veterans for he is a veteran. Wells served his country with pride for 39 years, until his retirement in 2005. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells has been a tireless worker for Miami-Dade County, Broward County, and Monroe County, assisting many veterans to obtain prosthetic limbs and devices such as electric wheelchairs, scooters, patient lifts, and many other instruments to ease any vet's daily tasks. Further, into his efforts of helping United States soldiers, he is the president of South Florida Army National Guard Family Support Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists deployed soldiers' families with funds to pay bills while the soldier is overseas; and

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells' compassion has helped propel his success amongst Bruce W. Carter Miami VA Healthcare Systems being the assistant chief of prosthetics service for 25 years. As a mentor and supervisor of 21 staff members, Sergeant Major Wells constantly exceeds the expectations of his colleagues; and

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells is also an outstanding president to multiple nonprofit organizations, including South Florida Chapter of Blacks in Government and the chairperson of the EEO Black Employment Program, with a list of accomplishments including scholarship programs and fundraising events; and

Whereas, Sergeant Major Wells has a bachelor of specialized training in military science from the National Consortium Staff College and an honorary degree of doctor of humanities National Consortium Staff College as well; 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, commend Sergeant Major Wells for his dedication to his profession and our veterans and commitment to the community.

RECOGNIZING FRED ARCHIBALD OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Fred Archibald, an SO Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his outstanding service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. Through this initiative, skilled utility professionals volunteer their time and expertise to help bring electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Mr. Archibald brought his technical knowledge, experience, and strong work ethic to this important effort, helping provide the infrastructure necessary to connect families to reliable power. For the families served, electricity means far more than convenience. It provides light after dark, refrigeration for food and medicine, and greater safety and comfort at home. These basic necessities can open the door to greater opportunity and a better quality of life.

Mr. Archibald's willingness to use his specialized skills to serve people far beyond his

own community reflects the very best of the cooperative tradition. His participation demonstrates professionalism, compassion, and a genuine commitment to helping others. I commend Mr. Fred Archibald for his technical expertise and selfless service to this important mission. His efforts reflect great credit upon WREC and our community.

HONORING SHERWIN FAMILY VINEYARDS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherwin Family Vineyards as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.

Steve and Linda Sherwin founded Sherwin Family Vineyards with their inaugural 1996 vintage of Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. For years, the Sherwins managed every aspect of the winery from running the tasting room to overseeing wine production. Steve Sherwin is a self-made businessman. He owned Sherwin Construction and Development in the East Bay for almost 30 years, building both residential and commercial structures. Steve has generously offered to help other vintners and neighbors make improvements to their properties, providing expertise, advice, and equipment when needed.

On September 28, 2020, disaster struck Sherwin Family Vineyards. The Glass Fire, which would go on to burn for almost a month and consume close to 70,000 acres, burned the winery to the ground. The family saw their life's work go up in smoke. With persistence, the Sherwins rebuilt the winery, and it reopened in May 2023. Now, thankful to be fully operational, the Sherwins continue to focus on making exceptional wines and entertaining guests at the top of Spring Mountain, always with a strong focus on supporting the local community as well as nonprofits nationwide.

Coined the "Home of the Patriotic Pour," the Commemorative Etched American Flag Bottles that Sherwin Family Vineyards produces are the cornerstone of the charitable focus of the winery. These bottles were created for a charity auction in honor of the September 11, 2001, attacks. Now, they are donated to nonprofits across the country and placed into charity auctions where they have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for a range of great causes.

While the Sherwins donate to charities throughout the country, their first focus is on the Napa Valley community, where they raised their three children. They have donated to almost every nonprofit in the Valley, with the goal of supporting the community that has embraced them and their family.

The Sherwins are proud to have raised their three children—Jenn Sherwin Matthews, Lindsey Sherwin-Quigley, and Matthew Sherwin—in the Napa Valley.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Sherwin Family Vineyards for its three decades of patriotism and community connection. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor it here today.

RECOGNIZING JUDGES VERONICA H. COPE AND KATHERINE M. ARMSTRONG

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Veronica H. Cope and Judge Kathrine M. Armstrong and would like to congratulate them on their appointment to serve on the Gwinnett Judicial Circuit Superior Court.

Governor Kemp recently selected these two women for these important and admirable positions. Both judges have esteemed legal careers and have shown a dedication to justice through their service to their communities.

Judge Cope has promoted social justice for Georgians throughout her career and has fought for fairness and equality for all Georgians.

Judge Armstrong is a lifelong citizen of Gwinnett County and has led a life serving her friends, neighbors, and community from the very beginning.

I have no doubt that both of these judges will serve with dedication and shall hold the utmost respect for their office and their communities.

CELEBRATING TEMPLE COLLEGE'S CENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Centennial of Temple College, an institution whose century of service has provided educational opportunities, supported generations of students, and made a lasting impact through Central Texas.

Founded in 1926 as Temple Junior College, the institution first held classes in the basement of Temple High School under its first president, Major Joseph S. Cook. Established through the efforts of civic, business, and education leaders, the college provided students with greater access to higher education closer to home.

From its earliest years, Temple College remained dedicated to providing students with a quality education. Despite the challenges of the Great Depression and World War II, Temple College continued to grow expanding its academic programs and establishing its own campus in south Temple. As Temple College enters its second century, it continues to grow and expand opportunities for students across Central Texas. With new facilities supporting a variety of academic and workforce programs, students have greater opportunities to learn and prepare for their futures. Temple College has also expanded its academic offerings, providing students with additional pathways to continue their education and pursue their career goals.

I am honored to congratulate Temple College on its 100th Anniversary and recognize

its lasting contributions to Central Texas, now serving more than 8,600 students and offering more than 80 associate degree and certificate programs while supporting veterans and military-connected students. I commend the faculty, staff, students, and alumni who have shaped the College over the past century and wish Temple College continued success for the next hundred years.

HONORING HUGH BERESFORD HAMMOND

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor legendary reggae superstar Hugh Beresford Hammond, known to his legions of fans and the music world as Beres Hammond. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mr. Hammond's distinctive, romantic, and soulful style, which was influenced by American soul and jazz music, and native Jamaican artists he grew up listening to in Annotto Bay, Jamaica, has garnered him international notoriety and acclaim; and

Whereas, Mr. Hammond began singing and performing in local talent shows in the 1970s, and his career has spanned more than 40 years, resulting in numerous hit singles and albums that have topped music charts; and

Whereas, Mr. Hammond formed his own record label, Harmony Records, in 1985 and released his album "Make a Song," which had two Jamaican chart-toppers and set the stage for his success and recognition in the reggae music industry; and

Whereas, Mr. Hammond's 2012 album "One Love, One Life," topped the Billboard Reggae Albums chart. He has performed with iconic musicians, including Maxi Priest, Wyclef Jean, Buju Banton, and Big Youth; 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, commend Hugh Beresford "Beres" Hammond for his talent and dedication to his art, and for his contributions to the music industry.

RECOGNIZING DYLLON LEAB OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dyllon Leab, an OPC Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his exceptional service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. The Light Up Navajo initiative relies on skilled utility professionals who volunteer their expertise to help extend electrical service to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Mr. Leab an-

swered that call, using his training and experience as a lineman to help perform the difficult work necessary to bring reliable electricity to families in need. The impact of this work extends far beyond electrical infrastructure. Reliable power allows children to study after dark, enables families to safely store food and medicine, and gives elders greater comfort and security in their homes. It brings greater opportunity and improves quality of life.

Mr. Leab's participation in this mission demonstrates both technical skill and a genuine commitment to helping others. His willingness to put his abilities to work far from home embodies the cooperative tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. I commend Mr. Dyllon Leab for his dedication, professionalism, and spirit of service. His contribution to Light Up Navajo reflects great credit upon WREC and the community we are proud to call home.

HONORING THE LAND TRUST OF NAPA COUNTY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the Land Trust of Napa County, and to recognize their 50 years of service to our Napa community. This anniversary marks five decades of community-powered conservation and stewardship in Napa County.

Land Trust of Napa County is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to preserving the character of Napa by permanently protecting land. Founded in 1976, the Land Trust has permanently protected more than 96,000 acres, representing over 18 percent of Napa County. The organization has completed more than 275 conservation projects and protects land that supports biodiversity, climate resilience, clean water, wildlife habitat, public enjoyment, and Napa County's agricultural legacy.

The Land Trust works cooperatively with landowners and our community to protect agricultural land, water resources, wildlife and wildlife corridors, scenic open space, forests, ranches, wildflower meadows and native biodiversity throughout Napa County. The Land Trust's conservation work has made significant progress toward creating a network of conservation lands that will continue to provide clean water, wildlife habitat and corridors, thriving agricultural lands, and access to nature for all those who live in and visit Napa.

Land Trust of Napa County is an accredited land trust, a distinction awarded by the Land Trust Alliance that recognizes their commitment to the highest standards in land conservation, financial accountability, and ethical practices. This accreditation signifies that Land Trust of Napa County meets rigorous national quality standards for protecting and stewarding the lands entrusted to our community.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Land Trust of Napa County for their 50 years of dedicated service to our community. The organization's contributions are undeniable and have made a lasting impact on the lives of many. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

RECOGNIZING LEOPOLD'S ICE CREAM

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leopold's Ice Cream and congratulate them on their 107th birthday.

Leopold's Ice Cream was founded in Savannah, Georgia, in 1919 to three Greek immigrant brothers. The famous local ice cream spot threw quite the birthday party, consisting of \$2 ice cream scoops, live music, face painting, and a special presentation of a restored World War I 48-star American flag belonging to the owner Stratton Leopold's family.

Whether it is a hot August day or a cold February evening, you can always expect Leopold's to have the longest line in town. The incredible ice cream is not only a favorite to its residents, but a must-have to the millions of tourists that visit the city every year.

As part of a long standing tradition, children 12 and under who recite the Pledge of Allegiance, receive a free child's scoop of ice cream.

I thank Leopold's for always having the best ice cream around, especially on the hot summer days when we need it most.

CELEBRATING SID SCHMIDT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sid Schmidt on his distinguished leadership as the Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Acting Chief Financial Officer of NASA.

Mr. Schmidt began his NASA career as an intern and rose, through decades of hard work, all the way to Deputy and Acting Chief Financial Officer, speaking to a rare kind of dedication, not just to his own advancement, but to the mission of NASA and to our Nation. After his internship, Mr. Schmidt joined NASA full-time as a resource analyst supporting human spaceflight initiatives at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Over a remarkable career spanning several decades, he earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance from Texas A&M University before completing both Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees at the University of Houston. He stepped into progressively greater leadership roles, serving as Manager for the Space Operations Resource Management Office, Resources Manager for the International Space Station, Chief of NASA Johnson's Central Budget Office, and eventually as CFO at Johnson Space Center.

As NASA's Acting Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Schmidt directed financial operations, managing more than 1,600 personnel and overseeing NASA's \$24.4 billion portfolio. His career is defined by strategic leadership and dedicated public service, including assignments as Loaned Executive to the Houston Technology Center, Associate Director of the EVA Management Office, and Dean of CFO University.

As the senior appropriator for the State of Texas, I understand firsthand how demanding a role of this magnitude truly is, and I have great respect for the discipline it takes to manage a portfolio of this size responsibly on behalf of the American taxpayer. Sid Schmidt represents the very best of Texas through his unwavering dedication and hard work. It is a distinct honor to help celebrate the retirement of a dedicated public servant whose work has done so much for our Nation's space programs, and I wish him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

HONORING BAHAMIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today, as a descendant of Bahamians, to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Bahamian independence and to pay tribute to its citizens and Bahamian-Americans living in South Florida and across the United States. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, the Islands of the Bahamas became an Independent Commonwealth Country on July 10, 1973, after centuries of British rule; and

Whereas, the proud people who, through uncertainty and tough economic times, remained steadfast and determined to build a brighter future after its hard-fought independence, showed great strength and unwavering will; and

Whereas, today, The Bahamas has a thriving economy built around tourism and financial services; the tenacious and enduring spirit of the Bahamian people, and its rich traditions and culture;

Whereas, Bahamians and Bahamian-Americans have made significant contributions to the United States through the art and humanities, business, activism, and local and national government, and remain an integral part of the South Florida community; 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, and a person of Bahamian descent, am proud to recognize the 40th anniversary of this resilient, free, and sovereign nation, and pay tribute to the wonderful people and descendants who make it great.

RECOGNIZING COLE MORGAN OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Cole Morgan, a CR Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his dedicated service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. Light Up Navajo brings together skilled utility professionals who volunteer their expertise to help extend electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power

for generations. Mr. Morgan answered this call to service, using his specialized training and experience as a lineman to help make reliable electrical service a reality for families in need. The impact of this work reaches well beyond the electrical infrastructure itself. Reliable power gives children light to study, allows families to safely preserve food and medicine, and provides greater comfort and security in the home. Mr. Morgan's willingness to put his skills to work far beyond WREC's traditional service territory demonstrates both compassion and an extraordinary commitment to service. His efforts are a powerful example of the cooperative principle of neighbors helping neighbors.

I commend Mr. Cole Morgan for his professionalism, dedication, and willingness to use his talents to improve the lives of others. His service reflects great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING MAYOR SCOTT SEDGLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Scott Sedgley's decades of public service and his contributions to the Napa County community as he is honored with Molly's Angels Community Impact Award.

As Mayor of Napa County, Scott Sedgley has led a lifetime of public service and extraordinary commitment to the Napa Community. Scott was raised in Napa, graduating from Napa High School in 1970. He completed a four-year apprenticeship in carpentry, spending 13 years working as a union carpenter. His next opportunity and challenge was working for the Napa Fire Department. Scott began as a Reserve Firefighter and then went on to permanent, working 32 years with the department. He retired as a Truck Captain in 2011.

Scott was elected to the Napa City Council in 2012 and re-elected to Council in 2016. Following a successful campaign in 2020, Scott became Napa's 25th Mayor since the incorporation of Napa in 1872. Mayor Sedgley currently serves on the Board of the Napa-Vallejo Waste Management Authority, the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA), the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy of Napa County and Napa County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

Mayor Sedgley's interest in local history has him serving on the Napa Valley Opera House Board of Trustees, Board Member of the Napa Valley Historical Society, and has dedicated over three decades as a docent at Bale Grist Mill State Historical Site. Previous Offices and appointments Scott served on were the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, and he served nine years as a Board Member with the Napa Valley Unified School District.

Beyond elected office, Scott is a member of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Napa Elks Lodge, Napa Kiwanis, Napa Moose Lodge, Napa County Landmarks, Land Trust of Napa County and the Sierra Club. Mayor Sedgley also worked for 13 years as a union carpenter helping to construct portions of downtown Napa. His extensive record reflects

an enduring commitment to preserving Napa's history, protecting its natural resources, and strengthening our community for future generations.

Mayor Sedgley and his wife, Linda, have two grown children and two grandchildren. They feel fortunate in having their entire family working and living in Napa.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Sedgley has had a clear impact on Napa County, and we thank the mayor for his dedicated service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Mayor Scott Sedgley here today.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia State University, which has been named the No. 1 public university in America for undergraduate teaching by U.S. News & World Report for the sixth consecutive year.

This distinction is decided by presidents, provosts, and admissions deans from colleges across the country, making it a mark of respect earned from other institutions.

Between 2010 and 2020, Georgia State's graduation rate climbed by more than 60 percent, a transformation achieved not by admitting less qualified students, but by strengthening the support systems available to them.

The university's advising system uses real-time data to help identify students that may be struggling, before a small step back turns into a withdrawal.

Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, Georgia State has created a standard where teaching quality and students are the true measures of success and excellence.

I congratulate Georgia State University and everyone who pours into its success.

HONORING FREEMAN T. WYCHE, SR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Freeman T. Wyche, Sr., an inspirational man of God and a revered spiritual leader in the Miami's Liberty City community who has served as senior minister of the Liberty City Church of Christ for 35 years. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Dr. Wyche is dedicated to his church and to his community, having chaired and served on the boards of many civic and educational organizations in Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida; and

Whereas, Dr. Wyche was mentored by the late renowned Dr. Marshall Keeble, and has earned several degrees from the University of Houston, New York Theological Seminary, and Faith College; and

Whereas, Dr. Wyche provided an invaluable service to his country, having served as an air traffic controller and a hospital administrator in the United States Air Force and achieving the rank of master sergeant before retiring at Homestead Air Force Base in 1990; and

Whereas, Dr. Wyche's unwavering devotion to God has been evidenced by his decades of ministration, teaching, evangelizing, and counseling across the Nation and around the world; 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, commend Dr. Freeman T. Wyche, Sr., for his years of faithful service to his family, his church, and our community.

RECOGNIZING BRIAN ALLEN OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brian Allen, an SO Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his exceptional service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. The Light Up Navajo initiative brings skilled utility professionals together to help extend electrical service to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Mr. Allen volunteered his expertise as a lineman and helped undertake the challenging, hands-on work required to bring this essential service to families in need. The importance of this mission cannot be measured simply in poles, wires, or electrical connections. Electricity gives children the ability to study after dark, helps families safely preserve food and medicine, and provides greater safety and comfort for elders. It brings new possibilities to homes and communities. Mr. Allen's willingness to put his professional skills to work on behalf of others demonstrates tremendous character and embodies the cooperative tradition of neighbors helping neighbors.

I commend Mr. Brian Allen for his hard work, professionalism, and dedication to this worthwhile mission. His contribution to Light Up Navajo reflects great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING BROWN STREET GALLERY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Brown Street Gallery as they celebrate their 20th anniversary as an inclusive art gallery for neurodiverse artists in Napa County.

Brown Street Gallery was established in Napa, California, in 2006 as a program of Napa Valley Support Services, a nonprofit organization serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Napa County.

For 20 years, Brown Street Gallery has provided meaningful opportunities for neurodiverse artists and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to create, exhibit, and sell their artwork in a professional gallery setting. The gallery promotes inclusion and economic opportunity while educating the community about the talents and contributions of artists with disabilities.

Brown Street Gallery offers studio time, creative development, and support to find and grow an individual artistic voice. Artists can also earn real money through the sale of their work at gallery shows and exhibitions. Brown Street Gallery has helped hundreds of artists build confidence, tell their stories in creative ways, and become active participants in Napa County's cultural life.

Brown Street Gallery has a long history of collaboration and partnership with schools, businesses, art organizations, nonprofits, and community groups to promote inclusive arts programming, and to develop artists as valued community members. To name a few examples, Brown Street Gallery artists volunteer with Meals on Wheels to deliver food, along with free flower delivery to seniors in collaboration with Napa Flower Power. Artists also regularly clean toys at the Napa Toy Library, attend the Farmers Market as volunteers, and attend collaborative shows with many well-known local artists. Brown Street Gallery also collaborates with organizations including Art Council Napa Valley, Moving Forward Towards Independence, and the Napa Education Foundation for community projects and art classes.

Mr. Speaker, Brown Street Gallery is one of the few galleries in the region dedicated to showcasing the work of neurodiverse artists in a professional gallery environment. The gallery is recognized for fostering creativity, dignity, inclusion, and community engagement. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor Brown Street Gallery here today.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA PORTS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great economic impact of Georgia ports.

Georgia Ports' economic impact grew by 4 percent in 2025, an increase of \$7 billion compared to the previous year.

The ports now generate \$181 billion in total annual sales and support over 605,000 full-time and part-time jobs across the State of Georgia.

Port-related activity accounts for 12 percent of Georgia's total economic output, meaning nearly one in every eight jobs in Georgia is tied to our ports.

Between 2021 and 2025, employment supported by port activity grew by more than 44,500 jobs, yielding 44 billion in income for Georgia workers.

The Georgia Ports Authority continues to invest in the future through a \$5 billion infrastructure plan, including new berths at the port of Savannah and in Brunswick.

These ports remain a vital engine of opportunity for the entire First District and our State.

HONORING DOROTHY BALLARD
GIBSON

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dorothy Ballard Gibson. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Dorothy Ballard Gibson graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1948 and went on to pursue a career in healthcare, earning her bachelor of science degree in nursing from the Medical College of Virginia; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gibson dedicated her life to healthcare in south Florida, working as a registered nurse at Jackson Memorial Hospital in 1956, Kendall Hospital in 1962, and as a supervisor at the Veterans Administration Hospital from 1966 until her retirement in 1990; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gibson and her husband, Sampson, established Michael's Kindergarten, Inc., and educated thousands of children from Miami's Liberty City, Opa-Locka, Carol City, and numerous other communities, at four day care centers; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gibson was an active member of Mt. Zion AME Church, where she served with the Missionary Society, the Trustee Board, Youth Development Department, and the Little Folk Choir, and was the founder of the Dorothy Gibson Lay Organization; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gibson was an active member in her community and often lobbied the State legislature as a children's advocate; and

Whereas, Mrs. Gibson was honored by the Miami-Dade County Child Development Services and received numerous awards, including the daycare center she founded, Michael's Kindergarten, Inc., being named Day Care Center of the Year; 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, recognize the tremendous contributions made by Mrs. Dorothy Ballard Gibson. I affirm her positive and far-reaching impact upon our community and our children. I honor her many years of dedication and service to South Florida.

RECOGNIZING BRETT TOWNS OF
WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, rise today to recognize Mr. Brett Towns, an OPC Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his dedicated service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. Through this important initiative, skilled utility professionals volunteer their time and expertise to help bring electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Mr. Towns used his specialized skills as a lineman to help carry out the demanding work necessary to extend electrical service to families in need. Electricity is something many of us rarely have to think about, but for those who have lived without it,

access to reliable power can transform daily life. It provides light after dark, allows families to safely refrigerate food and medicine, and brings greater safety, comfort, and opportunity.

Mr. Towns' willingness to put his skills to work for families far from his own community is a testament to his character and the spirit of service found throughout WREC. His work demonstrates that the cooperative tradition of neighbors helping neighbors extends well beyond geographic boundaries. I commend Mr. Brett Towns for his professionalism, hard work, and commitment to this life-changing mission. His service reflects great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING DR. SUSANA GONZALEZ

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Susana Gonzalez, an esteemed member of our Napa community, for receiving the inaugural Physician Innovation Award from Queen of the Valley Foundation.

As a first generation Californian and American, Dr. Gonzalez shows that the American dream is alive and well in Napa County. She and her husband, James Gonzalez, have been proud Napa residents for more than 20 years, raising 2 remarkable daughters. She received Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees from St. Mary's College and a medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Gonzalez's commitment to our community is evident from her leadership in cutting edge advancements for women's health. In 2004, she co-founded the robotics program at the Queen of the Valley, bringing minimally invasive robotic surgery to hundreds of women in the Napa Valley.

As a result of her work, Dr. Gonzalez has rightfully been recognized for her tireless commitment to healthcare, receiving the inaugural Women Who Inspire, Lead, and Transform Award from the Bi-National Health Alliance. She has also been featured in the U.S. News and World Report's "Top Doctor" list, and she has been routinely named one of the best OB/GYNs in the Bay Area by San Francisco Magazine.

Beyond her work as medical practitioner, Dr. Gonzalez is a proud mother and wife, whose devotion to her children's education has allowed them to attend two of California's finest universities. Outside of her meaningful and groundbreaking work, Dr. Gonzalez enjoys traveling and cooking for her family.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Dr. Gonzalez for her years of tireless dedication to our community and her impact on the medical field. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

RECOGNIZING GEORGIA
HOSPITALS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Georgia's fine hospitals and healthcare facilities, five of which have been named by US News as some of America's top hospitals.

I would like to congratulate the following hospitals: Emory University, Piedmont Atlanta, Emory St. Joseph's, Emory University Hospital Midtown, and Northside Hospital Cherokee.

These hospitals have shown remarkable care and service to patients. They have been recognized for outstanding treatment in a wide variety of categories.

Of the over 100 hospitals in the State of Georgia, these hospitals have stood out as an example.

These five hospitals demonstrate great pride in their work and set a standard for the rest of the nation to look up to and admire.

The care, research, and lifesaving techniques developed at these institutions will continue to reap benefits for all Georgians in the years to come.

HONORING EUNICE J. DAVIS

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Eunice J. Davis, a proud, dedicated member of Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, a dynamic leader and a devoted community servant. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Eunice J. Davis has been a faithful member of Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and committed to the sorority's mission of service to all mankind; and

Whereas, Mrs. Davis has exemplified exceptional leadership and organizational skills to become the new president-elect of Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter; and

Whereas, Mrs. Davis joined Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter in 1990, was named 2002 Soror of the Year, and has been an invaluable member for 23 years; and

Whereas, Mrs. Davis served as co-chair of the board of directors of Women Involved in Service to Humanity (WISH) Foundation, Incorporated, served as chairperson of the Spring and Fall Life Skills Workshops for the Jefferson Reaves House Women's Residential Center Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, and held several chapter offices and chaired numerous committees; and

Whereas, Mrs. Davis was awarded the WISH Foundation's Chairman of the Board Award for outstanding service and, although retired, is recognized as an outstanding educator and school principal who has received community-wide recognition along with many other awards; 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, commend Mrs. Eunice J. Davis, my friend and Soror, for her dedication to Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and for her commitment to serving the people of South Florida.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON KRAUTER OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Brandon Krauter, a BP Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his outstanding service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. The Light Up Navajo initiative calls upon skilled utility professionals to volunteer their expertise to help bring electricity to Navajo families who have lived without power for generations. Mr. Krauter answered that call, traveling far from home and putting his specialized skills to work on behalf of families in need.

For those of us accustomed to reliable electricity, it can be easy to overlook just how much it affects our daily lives. Power means children can study after dark, food and medicine can be safely refrigerated, and families can enjoy greater safety and comfort in their homes. By participating in this mission, Mr. Krauter demonstrated that his commitment to service extends far beyond the communities WREC traditionally serves. His work exemplifies the cooperative principle of neighbors helping neighbors and shows the tremendous difference skilled professionals can make when they choose to use their talents to help others.

I commend Mr. Brandon Krauter for his professionalism, dedication, and selfless service. His contribution to Light Up Navajo reflects great credit upon WREC and our community.

HONORING THE SONOMA VALLEY WOMAN'S CLUB

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sonoma Valley Woman's Club for their 125 years of tireless service to our community.

The Sonoma Valley Woman's Club is a historic and vibrant organization dedicated to empowering and uniting the women of our beautiful Sonoma Valley. Established in 1901, the club has been a cornerstone of our community, bringing together women of all backgrounds and ages who share a passion for service, learning, and friendship.

Over the years, the club has hosted countless events, workshops, and initiatives that have enriched the lives of our Sonoma Valley community. The Sonoma Valley Woman's Club boasts notable contributions including bringing the first free library to the city of Sonoma and writing the grant that opened a Carnegie library. Today, the club engages in educational programs and workshops, philanthropic endeavors that benefit local organiza-

tions, social gatherings and networking opportunities, and advocacy for issues that impact women and families in our community.

The Sonoma Valley Woman's Club also focuses on the preservation and maintenance of their historic clubhouse. The Club House was constructed by renowned architect Maynard Jones and opened on September 15, 1916. Part of the Register of Historic Places, the Club House remains a focal point of Sonoma Valley history to this day.

The Sonoma Valley Woman's Club is led today by President Victoria Mann, Vice President Jody Leeds, Treasurer Erika Petroni, Director Marilyn Booth, and Director Diane Termini. Without their hard work, the legacy of this impactful organization would not be what it is today.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the Sonoma Valley Woman's Club for their dedicated service to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today for their 125th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING DOWNTOWN BRUNSWICK

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize downtown Brunswick, Georgia, on being named the downtown of the year by the Georgia Downtown Association.

This grand achievement was presented at the GDA annual conference in Rome. The award celebrates communities that demonstrate outstanding achievement in planning, historic preservation, economic development, placemaking, organization, and community engagement.

Over the past two decades, downtown Brunswick has transformed into one of Georgia's premier downtown destinations by restoring historic buildings, opening thriving businesses, and welcoming more than 1.3 million visitors annually. Brunswick exemplifies the very best of downtown revitalization, having created a downtown atmosphere that is economically resilient, culturally vibrant, and positioned for future success.

Its achievements serve as an inspiration for communities across Georgia. It is a great honor to represent the city of Brunswick, Georgia, and I could not be more proud of the economic growth we have had in this part of the district.

HONORING THE LATE GUSSIE MAE HALL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Mrs. Gussie Mae Hall of Miami, Florida, an exceptional woman who has left an enduring legacy of humbleness, kindness, and strength. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mrs. Hall was a tireless supporter of local African-American elected officials and actively engaged in the democratic process by educating members of the community on the importance of the right to vote and encouraging their registration and participation; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hall was a lifelong resident of South Florida who was born in Homestead, Florida, formally educated in the Miami-Dade County Public School system, and worked through her church, He Reigns Interdenominational Ministries, Incorporated, to improve our community; and

Whereas, Mrs. Hall was an outstanding citizen, wife, mother, and friend; 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, commend the late Mrs. Gussie Mae Hall for her years of loving and faithful service to her family, her church, and our community.

RECOGNIZING JESSE DIAZ OF WREC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jesse Diaz, a WH Lineman with Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC), for his dedicated service as part of WREC's second mission supporting the Light Up Navajo Project. The Light Up Navajo initiative brings skilled utility professionals together in service to Navajo families who have lived without electricity for generations. Mr. Diaz volunteered his expertise as a lineman and helped undertake the challenging work required to extend electrical service to families in need. The results of this work can transform everyday life. Electricity means children can study after dark, families can safely preserve food and medicine, and elders can live with greater comfort and security. It brings connection, opportunity, and greater independence to the families who receive it. Mr. Diaz's willingness to use his professional skills in service to people far from his own community reflects tremendous character. His contribution exemplifies WREC's commitment to service and the cooperative principle that neighbors help neighbors wherever the need may be.

I commend Mr. Jesse Diaz for his skill, dedication, and compassion. His service to the Light Up Navajo mission reflects great credit upon WREC and our entire community.

HONORING LUIS ABINADER

HON. NELLIE POU

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2026

Ms. POU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His Excellency Luis Abinader, President of the Dominican Republic, to New Jersey on the occasion of his first official visit to our state and to recognize his distinguished record of service.

President Abinader was first elected President of the Dominican Republic in 2020 and was reelected in 2024. An economist and

businessman by training, he has brought his experience to public office with a focus on government reform and expanding opportunity for the Dominican people.

During his presidency, the Dominican Republic has pursued investments in infrastructure and access to drinking water while modernizing its national power grid. His administration has also worked to increase foreign investment and promote transparency and public accountability. In 2024, President Abinader helped enact constitutional reforms preserving presidential term limits and providing greater

independence for the Attorney General's Office.

President Abinader's visit carries special meaning in New Jersey. Our state is home to one of the largest Dominican communities in the United States. Among them are thousands of families in North Jersey who contribute enormously to the economic and cultural life of our state. The bonds between our nations are renewed every day by these families and the enduring connections they maintain with the Dominican Republic.

Today, William Paterson University welcomes President Abinader to its campus and presents him with its Presidential Medal. The occasion also celebrates the lasting ties between the Dominican Republic and Dominicans abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join New Jersey's Dominican community in marking President Luis Abinader's first official visit to our state. I extend my best wishes to President Abinader and the people of the Dominican Republic and look forward to the continued friendship between our nations.