

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.