

our Nation who have recently been recognized as “Christian Women of Distinction” by She Leads America.

While I strive to lead by example for my constituents back home in Michigan, I understand that not everyone looks to Washington politics for role models. Thankfully, we do not need to look far to be inspired by individuals led by their strong faith, moral values, and unwavering dedication to their communities. Today, I am proud to honor some of the women who through their hard work and tireless dedication have brought great inspiration to many throughout the world.

As a United States Representative, it is both my sacred and constitutional obligation to remain steadfast in my commitment to the defense of religious freedom. Now more than ever, we must safeguard religious liberty to ensure that each of these women and those I serve never have to compromise their religious beliefs.

One of the women honored by She Leads America, Riley Gaines, is a brave spokeswoman for fairness in women’s sports. Riley is no stranger to me or my team—a recent graduate from the University of Kentucky and 12-time NCAA All-American swimmer, she gained recognition after tying against Lia Thomas at the NCAA championships. She began the Riley Gaines Center, which has since led a movement to protect and support women’s sports. To many athletes, her work is an inspiration to many.

Mr. Speaker, these women, including Riley, have left an indelible mark on countless lives. They are pioneers whose examples have—and will continue to—inspire many. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of them for their unwavering dedication. This honor is truly well-deserved.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE
MONTH 2023

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month 2023. Each year from September 15th to October 15th, Americans across the country recognize and celebrate the history and culture of those individuals whose ancestry can be traced from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. This observance was first established as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The month encapsulates celebrations of independence for many Latin American countries. September 15th is the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th.

This year on October 3rd, Gwinnett County will celebrate a Heritage Night Celebration in observance of Hispanic Latino Heritage Month in the county. As the representative for Georgia’s most diverse and fastest-growing congressional district, it is my privilege to uplift the Latino community and celebrate their contributions to this district, the Nation, and the world.

In every facet of our daily lives, Latino leaders have made an indelible mark on this country and created a more perfect union for us all. These contributions take form in creative talents, culinary offerings, and civic development and leadership. Our community is well represented by artists, business owners, and elected officials whose Hispanic heritage enhances the diversity of our community and enriches the moral fiber of our nation. I am proud of their countless contributions to our country’s story, and I would like to take this month to honor the crucial role that these Americans play in our society and in Georgia’s Seventh Congressional District in particular.

While we continue to celebrate the observance of Hispanic Heritage Month, may we celebrate the power and pride of our Latino community in Georgia. As a representative of our state, I will continue to champion their values of strength, service, and patriotism every day. On behalf of myself, the Seventh Congressional District of Georgia, and the United States House of Representatives, happy Hispanic Heritage Month.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
SERVICE OF HENRY CHESTER

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Mr. Henry Lewis Chester of Fort Worth, Texas, who passed away on August 12, 2023.

Mr. Chester was born on April 9, 1948, in Los Angeles, California to Henry Lewis Chester, Sr. and Robbie Lenora Chester. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army and served in the Army Band during the Vietnam War. After returning home, Mr. Chester attended California State University, Dominguez Hills and later received two master’s degrees in special education and rehabilitation counseling.

In 2007, Mr. Chester moved to the Lone Star State and worked as a counselor for the Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center in Dallas, Texas. He married his wife Darlene, and together, they raised four amazing children and have many more grandchildren. Mr. Chester was very passionate about music, and he often worked as a substitute teacher in the music department at H.F. Stevens Middle School in Crowley, Texas. He also helped supervise band competitions and participated in numerous city bands in the Fort Worth metroplex during his free time.

Furthermore, Mr. Chester was a devoted man of faith. He regularly attended the Greater Saint Stephen First Church and was also a member of the Carter Metropolitan CME Church in Fort Worth. In these churches, Mr. Chester sang as part of a mass choir. He also frequently volunteered at his local food pantries to assist those in need. Those who knew Mr. Chester can attest to his care for family and community, and his loved ones truly cherished every moment with him.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation’s Capitol to recognize Mr. Chester’s remarkable life and service to our Nation. He will be dearly missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

HONORING STANLEY “STAN”
AUSTIN RANSOM

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stanley “Stan” Ransom, an esteemed musician and historian.

Stan was born in Winsted, Connecticut on January 24, 1928. After graduating from high school in 1945, he attended Yale University on a full scholarship. Stan enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946, achieving the rank of Corporal while serving in Japan. After his military service, Stan returned to Yale to complete his BA in Intellectual History, English, and Sociology. Stan earned his Masters Degree in Library Services from Columbia University in 1953 and worked for the New York Public Research Library.

In 1956, Stan began working for the Huntington Public Library, first as Assistant Director and later as Director. In 1974, he was named Director of the Clinton-Essex-Library System in Plattsburgh, a position he held for seventeen years. Stan retired briefly before serving as the Director of the Plattsburgh Public Library from 2007 to 2012, for which he secured grant funding to upgrade computers and created a program to teach computer skills to local residents.

Stan has nurtured a love of professional folk singing and storytelling. Developing his talents as a folk singer, known as “The Connecticut Peddler,” he recorded twelve albums of folk music from around New York State. Stan has performed at public libraries, children’s centers, local nursing homes, and assisted living facilities across the North Country.

Stan’s historical research uncovered the works of an obscure slave and poet named Jupiter Hammon, who wrote poems in the 1700’s in the Huntington area. Stan published a book of Hammon’s poetry in 1970, earning him an Award of Commendation from the American Association for State and Local History. Stan established October 17th, Hammon’s birthday, as “Black Poetry Day” in 1970, a holiday officially recognized by New York State in 2022.

Stan is an active member of the Plattsburgh Rotary Club, Sons of the American Revolution, Toastmasters Club, and serves as the Secretary of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. He and his wife Chris have been integral members of the Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration Committee since 2000, providing 19th-century children’s games for the annual Commemoration. Stan also performs music from the early 19th century throughout the Celebration weekend.

Stan has received countless awards recognizing his contributions to brotherhood, libraries, history, intellectual freedom, and folklore. In July 2019, he was honored by the Clinton County Senior Center in their “Six Over Seventy” Award series.

On behalf of New York’s 21st Congressional District, I wish to recognize Stanley Ransom for his lifetime of service to this Nation, to the preservation of history, and to the arts.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH DOYLE
WHOSE MISSION IT IS TO HONOR
WOMEN OF FAITH THROUGHOUT
AMERICAN SOCIETY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Doyle, an exceptional leader in faith and in her community.

For over 50 years, Elizabeth Doyle has been a tremendous inspiration to many. In 1972, Elizabeth began her speaking career in Belfast, Ireland, at the height of the Troubles conflict. It was there that she met her husband, Syd, who joined her in pioneering and leading three churches throughout Southeast England.

After 25 years in Southeast England, Elizabeth and her husband moved to the United States and started Nations Light Ministries, an organization dedicated to training leaders across the world. Elizabeth also founded Releasing Daughters of the Last Days, which has led her to over 50 countries across 6 continents. This organization inspired tens of thousands, oftentimes divided by terrorism or civil war, to find their faith.

Today, Elizabeth continues to inspire many throughout the nation by serving as Executive Director of She Leads America. Alongside Michigan State Representative Nancy DeBoer and Sylvia Williams, Elizabeth honors Christian women of distinction for their accomplishments across every professional sector.

Mr. Speaker, Elizabeth's remarkable journey is an inspiration to us all. In times of anguish, her spirit and devotion to the Lord has lifted me up. We are all deeply grateful for the wonderful work of Liz and her team as they continue to honor impactful women of faith everywhere.

SUPPORT FOR SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL LEADING ENTERTAINMENT AND ARTS THROUGH DIVERSITY MONTH

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise in support of designating the Month of September as "National Leading Entertainment and Arts through Diversity Month" or "National LEAD Month."

Despite growing diversity in the United States, minorities and communities of color remain underrepresented in the television and film industries.

Although Hispanics make up 18 percent of the population, we hold about 12 percent of the jobs in the media industry. Greater diversity on and off-screen is critical to promote the lived experiences of marginalized groups.

Through authentic storytelling, diverse representation provides audiences with narratives they can better empathize with. That's why I'm a cosponsor of House Resolution 191, which recognizes the need for diversity in the entertainment industry and establishes September as National LEAD month.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution on this critical issue.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF
ROBERT SIENKIEWICZ

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to recognize a philanthropic leader and revered member of the Buffalo community, Robert "Bob" Sienkiewicz. A proud graduate of University at Buffalo's political science program. Bob is not originally from the area, but he has called Buffalo his home ever since his college years.

Bob has a passion for ensuring the beauty of our community by fighting to maintain the original design of its neighborhoods. As houses and buildings throughout the City of Buffalo began to deteriorate in the 1980s, he became Executive Director at the Broadway-Fillmore Neighborhood Housing Service. Indeed, his commute to the office on Fillmore Avenue was nearly non-existent—he lived just a few houses down the street. Bob's success with NHS is clear; they keep asking him back in new capacities to share his wisdom and experience. He continued as President and is now back on the board. In 1994, his work with NHS led to a position as the Director of Housing for the Mayor of Buffalo's task force. Bob has also worked as a legislative assistant for the Buffalo City Council, worked for the New York State Department of Health, and sits on the boards of the Polish Community Center, the Broadway Market, the Plewacki Post, and the Nature Sanctuary Society of WNY. He recently donated 50 acres to the Nature Sanctuary Society, only further cementing his legacy within our community.

Every part of the City of Buffalo and its growth has been influenced by Bob, and all its citizens owe him an incredible debt of gratitude. Our neighborhoods remain prosperous and rooted in history due to his lifetime of efforts. As a political volunteer and friend of many, Bob's face is one of the most recognized in Western New York. Though his presence on various boards and organizations is irreplaceable, as a nature-lover, everyone hopes that he will take more time to enjoy the very nature that gives him so much joy. On behalf of a grateful community, it is my honor to recognize Robert Sienkiewicz as his friends and family reflect on his incredible career of public service.

HONORING SPECIALIST 5TH CLASS
GENE WESLEY BEAUCHAMP

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Colusa County resident Gene Wesley Beauchamp who tragically passed away earlier this year at the age of 75 years old.

Gene was an exceptional member of our community; he was deeply devoted and loyal

to our nation. He could always be found helping others. Gene was a truly selfless servant and will be missed by all.

Gene was born August 14, 1948, to Leonard and Lona Beauchamp. He attended local schools, graduating from Colusa High School. On October 3, 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he would serve 3 years of active duty and 3 years in the reserves.

From 1968 to 1969, Gene served in Vietnam as a Helicopter Aircraft Mechanic. He was trained on several army helicopters and even acted as crew chief. Gene was one of our nation's most highly decorated servicemen, being awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars for valor, a Purple Heart and fourteen Air Medals.

After his military service, Gene came back to Northern California and attended Chico State University. After which he would return to his family's rice farm in Colusa County. In 1975 he married his wife, Lana, and they raised a family on the rice farm in the very same home he grew up in.

After retiring from farming, Gene could be found volunteering with his local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2441 and the American Legion Post 218. During his time with these organizations, Gene could be found serving at fellow veterans' funerals, carrying the American flag in parades or local football games, and participating in ceremonies honoring the U.S. military and our treasured veterans.

Gene is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Lana Beauchamp; his children Lance and Kimi, and his many grandchildren and great grandchildren. In honor of his outstanding military career, Gene will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. His presence will be greatly missed in our community.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF THE GARRIOTT'S

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Chuck and Debby Garriott.

Reverend Charles "Chuck" Michael Garriott and Deborah "Debby" Cacace Garriott met while they were both in high school and married January 26, 1974, in Pikesville, Maryland, both at the age of 20. Their marriage has brought about the blessing of four children and seven grandchildren. Their son Phillip and his wife Brooke Garriott have four children: Blevin, Kiefer, Hazel, and Harper. Their daughter Katie and husband Tony Yang have three children: Avery, Linus, and Cason. Their daughter Anna lives in Washington, D.C., and their son Peter in Los Angeles, California.

Chuck and Debby have used their life together to invest in friends and family. Chuck served as a pastor in Oklahoma for many years and has served as the Executive Director of Ministry to State, a ministry that has invested in the spiritual lives of our leaders in the Nation's Capital, since 2004. Debby cares for patients as a physical therapist while also investing in the lives of men and women through Ministry to State.

They enjoy spending time with their family and at the beach. Debby enjoys her community garden plot and Chuck enjoys writing and