

distinction in my office and dedicated their time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

A Florida native, Delaney, arrived at my office determined to make a difference in the American legislative landscape. During her time here, she has advanced my agendas significantly, whether by drafting speeches and press releases, organizing press events, or conducting policy research. Her passion for public service and government is unparalleled, and she exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated public servant.

Delaney is currently a student at the University of Colorado Boulder where she focuses on Journalism and Political Science. She also serves on CU Bold's Student Government Association as Strategic Communications and Public Relations Chair. In addition, Delaney is the Vice President of her Panhellenic sorority. Delaney has also followed her academic interests by studying abroad in Paris, France, where she served as a strategic communications intern for the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Security Service Bureau.

Throughout Delaney's time in my office, I've observed that Delaney is deeply committed to journalism expertise to enhance the reach and influence of my office to as many constituents as possible. I am confident that she will continue to use her voice and talents to uplift underserved communities and champion important causes.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Delaney Jane Callahan for her commitment and service.

HONORING SWAIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Swain County High School girls cross country team on their fourth consecutive North Carolina 1A girls cross country state championship title.

The Maroon Devils girls went above and beyond this season by posting their best score yet out of their four straight championships.

Additionally, Swain County senior, Arizona Blankenship, won her second individual 1A cross country title.

Once again, congratulations to the Swain County High School girls cross country team. Their streak of success is a testament to the dedication and passion of their runners and the exceptional culture of their program.

HONORING THE MICHIGAN BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a cornerstone of leadership, collaboration, and advocacy in Michigan since its

founding in 2004. For two decades, the Caucus has provided a forum for local elected officials to network, mentor, and support one another, fostering stronger and connected communities throughout Michigan.

First organized in March 2004 during the Michigan Municipal League Conference in Lansing, the Caucus began with 45 Black local elected officials before officially becoming an affiliate of the Michigan Municipal League later that year. The organization has grown in scope and impact under the leadership of its Presidents—Clara Shephard of Muskegon, Lois Allen-Richardson of Ypsilanti, and its current President, Brenda F. Moore of Saginaw. Together, these leaders have guided the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials in its mission to amplify the voices of African American municipal officials and promote equitable governance across the state.

Through leadership development, data-informed policy, and its committees, the Caucus ensures that the needs of Michigan's diverse communities are heard and addressed. Its collaboration with state partners as well as national organizations has advanced policies that improve outcomes and representation for the African-American community. Additionally, its scholarships for high school students help ensure that the next generation of leaders has the tools they need to succeed in higher education.

The Caucus also serves as an important resource for its members, offering workshops, regional conferences, and a network of officials who share ideas and solutions to challenges faced by local governments. Through these efforts, it strengthens Michigan's cities, towns, and villages, empowering local governments to deliver meaningful progress and opportunity to their residents.

The Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials exemplifies the power of collaboration and shared purpose. By fostering equity, supporting emerging leaders, and advocating for policies that uplift the communities they serve, the Caucus has left an indelible mark on Michigan and beyond.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I ask that we recognize the Michigan Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials for its contributions and its role in shaping a more inclusive and prosperous future. May it continue to lead and inspire for many more years to come.

CELEBRATING SHERIFF STEVE KEMPKER'S RETIREMENT

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Sheriff Steve Kempker on his retirement following 44 years of outstanding service to Ottawa County. Sheriff Kempker has been a sworn officer of the law for over four decades, protecting the citizens of West Michigan, and I thank him for his courageous service in the line of duty.

Sheriff Kempker began his law enforcement career in 1980 with the City of Holland Police Department before joining the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office in 1989. Throughout his career, Sheriff Kempker served the county in a variety

of roles, including Road Patrol Sergeant, Operations & Services Lieutenant, Captain, and Undersheriff. In 2016, Steve Kempker was elected as the 33rd Sheriff of Ottawa County.

In addition to his storied career as an officer, Sheriff Kempker has been a part of several law enforcement organizations and was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder and reappointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the State of Michigan Mental Health Diversion Council. He also served on the Michigan High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Board under the President's Office of Drug Control and Policy.

Sheriff Kempker has been an outstanding public servant for the people of Ottawa County for over 40 years. I am honored to call Steve a friend and wish him the best in his well-earned retirement. His impact on our community will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Sheriff Steve Kempker for his decades of exceptional service to Ottawa County. I wish him the best as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING DANIEL CASTRO BONILLA

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Daniel Castro Bonilla, my fellow who served with distinction in my office and dedicated his time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Daniel, a proud Honduran American from Miami, FL, graduated from Bowdoin College with a degree in Asian Studies. His commitment to bridging cultural and linguistic divides is exemplified by his experiences studying in China under the Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship and conducting research with the Middlebury program. Furthermore, Daniel served four impactful years with the Fulbright Program in Taiwan, where he collaborated with schools nationwide to enhance educational opportunities.

Daniel served as a research analyst for Miami-Dade County policymakers, whose work is instrumental in developing data-driven policy solutions. Daniel has demonstrated a profound commitment to public service in my office, showcasing his analytical skills and international perspective to benefit our constituents. His work has been particularly impactful in fostering meaningful conversations around current events in Haiti, using his international relations expertise to help me navigate these unprecedented times. His insights have been invaluable in supporting friends and families in foreign countries during these challenging circumstances.

Daniel is a current Rangel fellow and will work for the State Department. I wish Daniel all the best as he transitions into his graduate studies in foreign service. I do not doubt that the next step in his journey will be filled with continued success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Daniel Castro Bonilla for his commitment and service.

HONORING WEST HENDERSON
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Henderson High School girls volleyball team for winning the North Carolina 3A volleyball championship game.

This is the Falcons' sixth volleyball championship and first since 2008.

The West Henderson girls persevered through the challenges brought by Hurricane Helene, which interrupted their season for two weeks as many of the players were without power and water.

On and off the court, the West Henderson girls battled all season long to finish with an impressive 26 and 2 record and the championship title.

Congratulations to the West Henderson High School Girls Volleyball team, they have made all of Western North Carolina proud.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF OFFICER
JACOB ANDREW CANDANOZA

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Officer Jacob Andrew Candanoza of the Terrell Police Department, who lost his life in the line of duty on December 8, 2024.

Officer Candanoza embodied the highest ideals of courage and commitment in his service to the Terrell community. On December 8, during a routine traffic stop, Officer Candanoza made the ultimate sacrifice to protect and serve.

Officer Candanoza dedicated his life to the protection of our Nation as a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps between 2014 and 2019. Following his military service, he worked with the Dallas Sheriff's Office as a courtesy patrol technician. After being sworn in as an officer with the Terrell Police Department in July 2024, Officer Candanoza quickly earned the respect of his colleagues and community for his professionalism and compassion. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder of the debt of gratitude we owe to all who serve on the thin blue line.

My deepest condolences go out to Officer Candanoza's family, friends, and fellow officers during this profoundly difficult time. May his memory serve as a beacon of courage and a reminder of the dedication of our law enforcement community.

HONORING MIA RODRIGUEZ

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the outstanding service of Mia Rodriguez, my intern who served with distinction in

my office and dedicated her time to serving the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District.

Mia is currently a student at Florida International University where her focus is on International Relations and Political Science. She also has served with distinction on FIU's Student Government Association as Chief Justice. I am proud to say that Mia has shown great dedication and has devoted her time in my office to diving deep into the legislative process, particularly when it comes to foreign affairs and trade policy.

Mia's eagerness to learn and excel will always be remembered. I wish Mia all the best as she continues her academic journey of which I am certain will be filled with much success.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mia Rodriguez for her commitment and service.

HONORING POLK COUNTY HIGH
SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Polk County High School girls volleyball team for winning the North Carolina 1A volleyball championship game with a score of 3-0.

This is the Wolverine girls' second consecutive 1A volleyball championship title.

Making their championship win all the more impressive, the team did not have practices or games for a period of 19 days during the middle of their season due to Hurricane Helene.

Congratulations to the Polk County High School girls volleyball team. I commend their work ethic, fortitude, and determination that resulted in an outstanding season.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
COMMISSIONER ANTONIO WIL-
LIAMS OF WAYNE COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA

HON. WILEY NICKEL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation honoring the service of Commissioner Antonio Williams.

Whereas Commissioner Antonio Williams continues to advocate for the creation of the Wayne County Homeless Committee to combat homelessness in Wayne County.

Whereas Commissioner Williams accomplished the approval of digital libraries in District 2, which in turn brought more support to the Summer Youth Employment Program that he started.

Whereas the commissioners approved resolutions authorizing the spending of national opioid settlement funds, which will bring needed relief to communities impacted by the opioid epidemic in Wayne County. These funds support every aspect of the effort to combat addiction, from early intervention to re-

covery support services and the treatment of incarcerated people.

Whereas the commissioners' progress on public service infrastructure, from the Northern Wayne County Library, to Fremont Elementary school, adds to the quality of life in Wayne County and contributes to the delivery of essential support for all constituents.

Whereas the increased allocation for public schools in this year's budget, including expansion of the School Resource Officer program is critical to ensuring safe and accessible public education.

I, WILEY NICKEL, Congressman of the 13th District of North Carolina, am honored to recognize the incredible service of Commissioner Antonio Williams of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Williams' efforts to improve citizens' lives through public service is laudable, and his impact on community is immeasurable. I Thank Commissioner Williams for his devoted attention to Wayne County and contributions to the strength of our state.

RECOGNIZING THE 2024 AAA STARS
OF LIFE

HON. CLIFF BENTZ

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 20, 2024

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of the emergency medical services (EMS) profession who dedicate their lives to providing often lifesaving medical care and transport services to patients as well as entire communities. These health care professionals are on the frontlines of providing vital emergency 9-1-1 and interfacility ambulance services.

Every year, the dispatch of an ambulance is the first response to millions of medical emergencies. Often, the survival of a patient is enhanced by the prompt medical attention provided by paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) prior to the arrival at an emergency department. As a result of the selfless acts of these courageous and devoted professions, the lives of thousands of Americans are saved each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our outmost gratitude.

I would like to highlight a very special group of EMS professionals or "Stars of Life" who were honored this by the American Ambulance Association. These Stars of Life are meeting with their members of Congress this week and I strongly encourage my colleagues to take the time to chat with these exceptional individuals.

The American Ambulance Association honors each year those paramedics, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and other ambulance service personnel who exemplify what is best about the EMS field. The American Ambulance Association has appropriately designated these individuals as "Stars of Life". Past Stars of Life have included paramedics and EMTs who were part of evacuation and response efforts to natural disasters, acts of terrorism and public health emergencies. Members of this year's Stars of Life program are no different and were involved with exceptional acts such as delivering and saving a baby born pulseless during transport to a hospital and extracting a patient involved in a fiery