

Ms. Dorie Ann Ladner, born on June 28, 1942, in Hattiesburg, MS, demonstrated remarkable courage from an early age. She was deeply involved in civil rights in Mississippi, joining the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) as a teenager. Ladner left college three times to organize voter registration campaigns for several counties and towns, including Canton, Hinds County, Indianola, Liberty, McComb, and Natchez, MS, and promote integration.

Her journey took a turn in 1961 when she was expelled from Jackson State University for supporting the Tougaloo Nine. This setback only fueled her determination, leading to her enrollment into Tougaloo College. She studied history and political science there and was inducted into the Gamma Psi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Ladner's legacy is a testament to her unwavering commitment. Her accomplishments were numerous, ranging from being the first female employee of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) Jackson office to planning the Mississippi Freedom Summer and helping to coordinate the 1963 March on Washington. As a civil rights crusader, her commitment to justice was significant. Let us honor her legacy and ensure it continues to inspire us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Ms. Dorie Ann Ladner for her dedication to civil rights and racial equity.

THANKING HUD SECRETARY  
MARCIA FUDGE FOR HER PUBLIC  
SERVICE

### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my sincere and best wishes to U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Marcia Fudge, as she concludes her public service to our great Nation.

Before Secretary Fudge joined the Biden Administration, we served together as part of the Ohio Congressional Delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives for twelve years. I was proud to work alongside her to meet our shared goals on a number of issues, including housing opportunities for low and moderate-income families, as well as combating the opioid epidemic in Ohio.

As Secretary, we continued our strong relationship, and her leadership has benefitted HUD projects across the country, including in my district.

Secretary Fudge's steadfast career in public service, beginning as Mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, is an example for all of us who work to serve our communities and our Nation.

I thank Marcia for her friendship and her long and distinguished public service to the people of Ohio, and the United States of America. I wish her a happy, healthy, and productive retirement.

HONORING MIA POINSETTE AS A  
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CEN-  
TRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

### HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mia Poinsette is an award-winning disruptive philanthropist and respected community leader. She is the founder and executive director of the Poinsette Foundation, a self-funded nonprofit that invests in ideas that empower underestimated women and children of color. Since launching in 2022, the foundation has helped thousands of Central Florida families through more than 80 community partners.

In Osceola County, the foundation's contributions include sponsoring nearly 60 children at the Kissimmee and St. Cloud Boys and Girls Club during the holiday season. In addition, the "The Poinsette Foundation Team Space" in Osceola, Oak Ridge, and Ocoee High Schools collectively supports nearly 1,000 students enrolled in the Junior Achievement 3DE program.

Mia demonstrates additional commitment to her community by serving as a board member for the Boys and Girls Club of Osceola County, Women United, the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, Women's Executive Council, and Women on the Rise. Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer also appointed Mia to serve on the Mennello Museum of American Art's Board of Trustees.

Mia graduated from multiple leadership programs, including the Black Boardroom Leadership Institute's 2022 leadership track, Leadership Orlando Class 103, and the 2023 ATHE-NA NextGen Cohort. She is currently enrolled in Leadership Osceola.

Recognized for her impactful footprint in the community, Mia is the recipient of the Osceola Magic Change Maker award, Heart of Florida United Way's 2023 Change Maker: Women United Impact award, the Women's Executive Council's 2023 Women of Achievement: Central Florida Influencer award, Women on the Rise's 2023 Community Impact Leader award, and Women on the Rise's 2023 Inspirational Deeva award.

Mia earned an undergraduate degree in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University and is pursuing a graduate degree in government at Harvard University.

Happily married with two children, Mia is also a violinist and an avid traveler in her free time.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY  
LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT  
KASULKE

### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and celebrate the life of Major General Robert J. Kasulke, M.D.

Robert was born on June 12, 1949 in Queens, New York to two proud parents, Francis and Florence Kasulke. He would grow

up and graduate from Archbishop Molloy High School in Jamaica, New York before going on to attend Fordham University and graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1971. He continued his academic journey attending SUNY Upstate Medical University where he graduated in 1975 and went on to receive his master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs the following year. Dr. Kasulke also attended the United States Army War College and graduated in 1999.

On May 3, 1975, Robert married Catherine O'Connell, the love of his life, at Fordham University Chapel. The couple lived in the Bronx where Dr. Kasulke did his residency in general surgery at Montefiore Health and Hospital Center. After completing his residency, he and Mrs. Kasulke moved to Columbia, MO where he completed his fellowship in vascular surgery at Columbia Health and Science Center. He moved to Saranac Lake in 1983 and later to Watertown in 1989 where he practiced at the Good Samaritan and Mercy Hospital until 1991. He continued his academic journey attending SUNY Upstate as a medical professional in Upstate New York serving in a variety of different manners and was, at the time of his death, the Medical Director of Hospice of Jefferson County, the Medical Director of Jefferson County Public Health Service, and the Jefferson County Deputy Medical Examiner.

In addition to his medical work, Dr. Kasulke also served in the Army Reserve from 1980 to 2012. Even after his retirement from the Reserve, Dr. Kasulke continued his staunch support for the Armed Forces, being appointed an Army Reserve Ambassador in 2013 and to the Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council in 2017.

His hard work and perseverance led him to be a pivotal piece in arranging community activities, including leading many "We Honor Veterans" ceremonies honoring those who fought for our freedom. Furthermore, Dr. Kasulke was a member of Elks Lodge No. 496 and the Italian American Club showing his commitment to our community.

In addition to serving his country and his community, Robert dedicated time to his family. He could often be seen at one of his three grandchildren's sporting or school events. He was known for his collection of antique soldiers and model trains as well as his enjoyment for woodworking.

Robert lived a full life that demonstrated his utmost dedication to his country, his community, and his family. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize the life and service of Robert Kasulke.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF BATTERY COUNCIL  
INTERNATIONAL

### HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 100th anniversary of Battery Council International or commonly known as BCI. In March of 1924, 25 firms launched the National Battery Manufacturer's Association—the group that would eventually become Battery Council

International. Since then, BCI has been the leading trade association for unlocking the potential of energy storage and supporting the commercial integration of essential products. BCI members are committed to safe, responsible battery manufacturing and sustaining the world's most successful circular economy.

The domestic lead battery industry is an American manufacturing story that should make us all proud to be a part of. The industry in the United States has more than 165 GWh of manufacturing capacity, 39 lead battery manufacturing facilities, over 250,000 lead battery collection and distribution sites, and 9 lead battery recycling facilities. Lead batteries have a nearly 100 percent recycling rate, an industry sustainability achievement deserving of our recognition.

The U.S. battery industry powers roughly \$8.1 trillion worth of domestic industrial economic output annually, or roughly 20 percent of the U.S. economy. Forty-eight million jobs are related to or reliant on the battery industry and related downstream businesses. And the industry continues to invest to meet the future.

The batteries made by BCI members over the past century have powered nearly a billion vehicles in the U.S. alone—a staggering contribution to American mobility. Fifty percent of the world's energy storage capacity is reliant on lead batteries, which are a particularly vital part of virtually every industry sector, including transportation, traditional vehicles, electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles emergency and remote power, data centers, telecommunications, and renewable energy storage.

I am especially proud of the work of East Penn Manufacturing, which is the largest single-site, lead battery facility in the United States. East Penn is located in my former congressional district in Lyons, Pennsylvania, and employs over 10,000 people.

The President and CEO of East Penn, Chris Pruitt, leads this important company with its remarkable workforce in our state, and also currently serves as the Chairman of the Board for Battery Council International.

The battery industry continues to be vital for our economy, our low carbon future, and our manufacturing sector, as well as the many industries that rely on energy storage.

I would like to congratulate my friend and BCI board chair, Chris Pruitt, as well as BCI President, Roger Miksad, and all of the members on the 100th Anniversary of Battery Council International.

#### HONORING THE WOODSIDE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2024*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Woodside High School Men's Basketball Team from Newport News, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 5 State Champions.

On Saturday, March 9, 2024, the Woodside Wolverines won the Class 5 State Championship Game against the Lloyd C. Bird Skyhawks with a score of 53–33. This is the second year in a row that Woodside High School has claimed a state championship title.

Led by Coach Stefan Welsh, the Wolverines closed their season with a record of 27 wins and 1 loss.

The Wolverines and Skyhawks battled throughout the first and second quarters for an advantage. At the end of the second quarter, though, the Wolverines went on a 9–0 run positioning themselves into a 23–15 lead by half-time. The Wolverines then expanded their lead in the second half creating as much as a 23-point lead on their opponents. The Wolverines were able to defend this lead throughout the rest of the game and ultimately win the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate the Woodside High School Basketball Team and thank Coach Welsh, the parents, and the entire Woodside High School community for supporting these students throughout the season. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

#### HONORING SOL ORTEGA AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2024*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Sol Ortega was born in Peru and migrated to Kissimmee when she was seven years old. Her parents, Esther Rivasplata and David Ortega, created a life in Central Florida where they contributed to the growing tourism economy. Her family's immigration journey and sacrifices inspired Sol to pursue a career in public service to give back to the community she grew up in. While she was young, she participated in community service projects through the local YMCA, becoming a mentor for Bookmark Buddies through the Education Foundation of Osceola County, and, while in high school, volunteered in Teen Court, a program to divert less serious juvenile cases away from the more formal Juvenile Court.

During her time at Professional and Technical High School, she enrolled in the dual enrollment program where she attended Valencia College. Thanks to this program, she was able to earn her associate degree and high school diploma at the same time. She then moved to Gainesville, Florida, to attain her bachelor's degree in political science and Latin American Studies—making her the first in her family to graduate from a four-year institution.

During her time at the University of Florida, Sol advocated for immigrant issues and completed a fellowship in the Florida State Capitol. Sol then moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue an internship in Congress and worked in service of Florida's Ninth Congressional District, providing vital support for constituents, including during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Sol now works at the White House Office of Public Engagement, conducting outreach to the broader Latino community.

Ms. Ortega's leadership has allowed her to represent Central Florida and Kissimmee proudly. She will continue to work towards creating spaces for her community to be heard and represented at all levels of government, with the goal of building a better community.

#### TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN W.B. WILSON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2024*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader and devoted public servant. W.B. Wilson—the “Workhorse of Williamsburg County”—transitioned from this life on March 15, 2024. His rich sense of humor, wisdom, and optimistic spirit will be sorely missed.

Councilman Wilson dedicated his life to serving others. He was elected to the Williamsburg County Council in 1994 and immediately got to work improving the county's roads, many of them rural roads that had never been paved.

W.B.'s proudest achievement was improving access to clean water in the county. After his father died from kidney disease directly connected to unsafe drinking water, W.B. made it his mission to ensure others in his community did not suffer the same fate. As a result of various USDA grants and loans he helped secure, Williamsburg County now has abundant access to clean drinking water. It was through his efforts to improve the essential infrastructure of Williamsburg County and his various other talents that W.B. earned his reputation as a natural leader.

In addition to his work on the Williamsburg County Council, W.B. was actively involved in the South Carolina Association of Counties, the Williamsburg County Billing Committee, the Community Emergency Response Team, the Hemingway High School band and athletic booster club, and many other organizations. He also served on the boards of various community organizations and volunteered as a firefighter.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Verlena Dicker Wilson, daughter, P. Jeanette Simon, son, Andre Wilson, brother, Samuel C. Wilson and sisters, Fannie Smith and Valtricia Cunningham.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in celebrating the remarkable life of Councilman Wilson. Over the course of W.B.'s long career of service, there wasn't a person in Williamsburg whose life he didn't touch. His decades of work improving the lives of the people of Williamsburg will resonate for years to come.

#### HONORING DR. PETER STONER

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 21, 2024*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a White Freedom Rider from Jackson, Mississippi, Dr. Peter Stoner.

Dr. Peter Stoner, is a courageous Civil Rights Freedom Rider and a genuine American hero. His selfless dedication to the Civil Rights Movement, particularly his role as a white Freedom Rider, significantly influenced the course of history, contributing to the passage of the Civil Rights Voting Act of 1966.

Dr. Stoner's commitment to justice and equality demonstrated through his role as a