

Her work in higher education has been impactful to Texas as well. As Chair of the House Committee on Higher Education, she played a pivotal role in the expansion of the University of Houston-Victoria into a four-year institution, significantly increasing access to higher education for students in the region. Her efforts have been recognized by many, including the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which awarded her the Leadership Star Award. She has also been named Legislator of the Year by the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and honored with the Texas Community College Teachers Association Legislator of the Year Award.

Beyond her legislative work, Representative Morrison has always been deeply committed to community service. Her 17-year involvement with the Junior League of Victoria allowed her to lead programs like "Making the Grade" and "Great Expectations," where she worked with young people to inspire academic success and provide support for pregnant teens in completing their education. Her leadership in these initiatives has touched countless lives and opened doors of opportunity for those who need it most.

Representative Morrison's service extended beyond her district and into key leadership positions at the state level. Prior to running for office, she served as Executive Director of the Governor's Commission for Women under Governor George W. Bush, and she was appointed to the Texas Commission for Volunteering and Community Service and the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission.

Her long-standing dedication to public service has earned her numerous awards, including the Boy Scouts of America South Texas Council's Distinguished Citizen Award, the Victoria Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award, and recognition as one of South Texas' Women of the Year. These accolades are a testament to her unwavering commitment to her constituents and her deep-rooted belief in the importance of community involvement.

As Representative Morrison embarks on this new chapter of her life, it is my honor to recognize her remarkable career and thank her for her faithful service to Texas. We are better off having had someone of Geanie's caliber involved in public service. May God bless her and her family in the days and years ahead.

MRS. ESMERALDA HETRICK

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Mrs. Esmeralda Hetrick for her continuous, tireless and dedicated service to the community—and for earning the Estamos Unidos Lifetime Achievement Award.

Esmeralda Hetrick was born in Texas as one of six children—where they lived on welfare and government assistance—but fortunately had an amazing mother that instilled integrity, values, hard-work and a strong belief in God in her children. She was the first in her family to graduate post-secondary education earning a bachelor's degree and an MBA. Esmeralda married in her twenties but her late

husband, Max's tragic death left her a widow and single mother with a five-year old to raise. She then moved to Pennsylvania in 1988, where she's found her home.

Esmeralda worked as a Health Equity Consultant for an insurance company where she influenced corporate strategy, product development, and healthcare disparity issues, while leading the community outreach and small business minority procurement of the company. Her expertise enabled the insurance company, to tailor effective messages and ad campaigns to inform the community of their healthcare options. Perhaps most importantly, she mentored disadvantaged Pennsylvanian students to help create future leaders. Mrs. Hetrick also owns an English and Spanish newspaper, La Voz Latina Central of PA, and is the personal talent manager for her husband Graham S. Hetrick, a Dauphin County Coroner who has a TV show "The Coroner—I Speak For the Dead."

Her continuous community efforts garnered media attention and positioned her as a go-to spokeswoman in Pennsylvania—earning her selection in the 2005 YWCA "Women of Excellence", her selection in the 2006 Harrisburg Magazine's "Movers and Shapers", a feature story in 2009 in the first Issue of "Women Connect—Connecting Women All Over the World", and the Jefferson Award Medal for Public Service in 2006, 2007, and 2009. She is also just the third person to receive the Estamos Unidos Lifetime Achievement Award—an award serving for serving the Latino Hispanic community for at least 15 years—it's certainly well-earned.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored and privileged recognize Mrs. Esmeralda Hetrick for her tireless service to Central Pennsylvania in her myriad roles, and her earning of the Estamos Unidos Lifetime Achievement Award. Her dedication to family, community, and country is the standard by which we should all be judged—and I wish her continued success in all her endeavors.

HONORING HAYLEY NORRING'S
COMMITMENT TO
THE OPIOID CRISIS

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Hayley Norring, who worked in partnership with her peers to put together a Fight Back Against Fentanyl PSA.

Hayley is from Hastings, Minnesota. Her brother, Devin, was an honors student who loved playing football, making music and skateboarding.

On April 4, 2020, Hayley and her family lost Devin to fentanyl poisoning. He was seeking relief from blackout migraines and dental pain. He bought what he thought was Percocet marketed by a drug dealer on Snapchat. That pill turned out to be 100 percent fentanyl.

Devin was 19 years old.

The Devin Norring Foundation, in partnership with Hayley, produced an impactful and heartfelt PSA to fight back against fentanyl. In turning her grief into activism, Hayley has shown strength and courage beyond her years. I am proud to have her as a constituent

and an ally in this fight against the fentanyl crisis.

I thank Hayley for sharing Devin's story and demonstrating a commitment to combating the opioid crisis.

HONORING AUSTIN SMITH

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, I would like to recognize State Representative Austin Smith.

Smith is a fifth-generation Arizonan and began his involvement in political activism in 2016, when he helped to foster a strong conservative network in Arizona. In 2022, he started a career in public service of his own, when he won a seat for Legislative District 29 in the Arizona House of Representatives.

In his first term in the Arizona Legislature, Smith served as Vice Chairman of the Natural Resources, Energy, and Water Committee and has been outspoken on many issues that are vital for the future of our great state, including water conservation, border security, Second Amendment rights, economic growth, and life.

Representative Smith's commitment to preserving the state he and his family love so much is admirable, and I am thankful for his service to Arizona.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NATHAN
HARE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a civil rights icon, a fearless truth teller, this country's "Father of Black Studies," Dr. Nathan Hare.

Born on April 9, 1933, Dr. Hare was a son of Oklahoma sharecroppers. Academically gifted, he excelled through the state's segregated school system, earning a bachelor's degree from Langston University. He went on to receive a master's degree and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago, finishing his education with a second Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology.

Throughout his academic and professional career, Dr. Hare was a champion of Black history and power. In 1965, as a professor at Howard University, he published "The Black Anglo-Saxons," the first of his many groundbreaking works.

In 1968, he arrived at San Francisco State University, where he sought to develop an interdisciplinary program dedicated to understanding the Black experience. After significant pushback from the university's administration, which resulted in a five-month strike with students and faculty, Dr. Hare completed the proposal for the program. With its adoption, Dr. Hare became the first head of a Black Studies Department in the United States.

In 1969, Dr. Hare co-founded the Black Scholar magazine. Through this publication,

he granted me the privilege of writing an edition about the Non-Aligned Movement. The Conference on Non-Aligned Nations was held in Havana, Cuba and I received credentials as a journalist to cover this impactful summit on behalf of the Black Scholar and the Sun Reporter newspaper.

He also asked me to write an article about the nonviolent revolution in Grenada. Through our friendship, work, and his mentorship, he taught me what a Black perspective on foreign policy and international relations meant as an African American. For this, I am deeply grateful.

Dr. Hare was preceded in death by his loving wife, Dr. Julia (Reed) Hare, an activist and scholar who joined him on the frontlines of his academic efforts. In 1979, they founded a research institution, called the Black Think Tank, where they wrote several books about Black life in America.

Dr. Nathan Hare was an incredible scholar, whose contributions to Black academia and media have made a lasting impact on our world. He will be greatly missed by those who had the honor of knowing him and remembered by all who stand upon his shoulders. May he rest in eternal peace and power.

RECOGNIZING PASTOR CALVIN CREWS, JR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of one of my constituents, Reverend Dr. Vassar Calvin Crews, Jr., a dedicated servant of God, a distinguished Veteran, and a pillar in his community.

Following his high school education in Lynchburg, VA, Reverend Crews pursued an Electronics Engineering program at Central Virginia Community College before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1970. He served honorably as a Fire Control Technician aboard the nuclear-powered submarine, *USS James Madison*, SSBN 627 Blue Crew. After four years of service at sea, he was stationed in Virginia Beach, where he simultaneously pursued a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Old Dominion University.

It was during his time in Virginia Beach that Reverend Crews recommitted his life to God, a decision that would shape his future and calling. Following his discharge from the Navy in 1979, he moved to New Jersey and later to Pinellas Park, Florida, where his faith continued to guide him. At Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, he served in numerous leadership roles, including as Choir Director, Trustee Board Member, and Sunday School Superintendent. Reverend Crews's dedication to education and ministry was evident throughout his life. He earned multiple degrees, including a B.S. in Engineering Technology from the University of South Florida, a B.A. and M.A. from Florida Beacon Bible College, and a Ph.D. from Andersonville Theological College and Seminary. Licensed as a minister in 1986, he was ordained in 1988 and installed as Pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in January 1989, where he faithfully led his congregation until September of 2024. Reverend

Crews's legacy is marked by his deep faith, his commitment to education, and his unwavering service to his community and to his country. He is a man of conviction and compassion who has touched the lives of many through his ministry and mentorship. As we honor his lifetime of service, let us celebrate a life well-lived and a calling answered. Dr. Calvin Crews, Jr.'s impact will continue to resonate through those who served. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING MAJOR THOMAS "TK" KENNEDY

HON. MICHAEL LAWLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Major Thomas "TK" Kennedy, a true son of Rockland County, whose unwavering dedication to serving his country with valor and distinction is a shining example of patriotism.

Born in Suffern, New York, and raised in New York City, Tom was the youngest of three boys. He loved to play hockey, playing for the Ramapo Saints, followed by Don Bosco Preparatory School, and eventually as part of the Black Knights of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he graduated in June 2000.

On August 8, 2012, Major Kennedy tragically lost his life in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, when a Taliban suicide bomber struck while he was escorting a group to a provincial governor's meeting. His sudden departure left a void that can never be filled. He left behind his wife, Kami, and their twins, who were just weeks shy of their second birthday.

Throughout his distinguished military career, Major Kennedy earned an impressive array of awards and service medals, including two Bronze Star Medals, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star posthumous, two Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, and three Army Achievement Medals, among many others. His dedication to his country and his fellow soldiers will always be remembered.

We honor Major Thomas "TK" Kennedy for his ultimate sacrifice and service and remember him as a loving husband, father, and hero who gave everything for his country. His sacrifice is a solemn reminder of the weight of service bore by our brave soldiers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUAN CISCOMANI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes taken yesterday, September 23, due to travel issues. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 440; YEA on Roll Call No. 441; and YEA on Roll Call No. 442.

RECOGNIZING KEIR SCOUTES

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spanish Fork's Keir A. Scoubes, who was recently promoted to Land Component Commander with the Utah Army National Guard. Scoubes served in Iraq and Afghanistan and has been serving as a Lieutenant Colonel with the National Guard. In addition to his military career, Scoubes has also been a City Councilman and a teacher at Spanish Fork's Larsen Elementary. He is a perfect example of someone bringing their talents to the community and finding a way to contribute.

I congratulate Colonel Scoubes on his tremendous accomplishment.

HONORING KEVIN PAYNE

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Arizona's 8th Congressional District, it is my honor to recognize Arizona State Representative Kevin Payne from Legislative District 27, covering the northwest valley in the Phoenix-metro area.

Kevin served our nation's military in the U.S. Navy, where he was honorably discharged after eight years. He has an impressive resume in the private sector, working as an Electrical Engineer, Aerospace Technical Consultant, and in Information Technology. Kevin has also been a small business' owner and operator, which gives him unique insight into how government should work for all Arizonans attempting to achieve the American Dream for themselves.

Representative Payne is the Chairman of the Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee, and he is a member of the Government and Regulatory Affairs Committees. He has worked to defend Arizona's standing as one of the top conservative states in the nation.

Arizona's 8th Congressional District is thankful for Representative Payne's endeavors on behalf of his district and our state.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 440, 441, and 442. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 440, YEA on Roll Call No. 441, and YEA on Roll Call No. 442.