

Sergeants responsible for over 8,000 Airmen and their families, demonstrating her far-reaching influence and leadership. Her dedication to service is equally strong in the community. For over four years, she has led Operation Warm Heart, a nonprofit that provides emergency financial support to military families. As both President and Secretary of the executive council, she has helped raise more than \$148,000, organized school supply drives, coordinated the Gold Star Family Ruck March, and supported local shelters and memorial associations. Her commitment is both personal and professional. Having experienced the challenges of deployment and reintegration in her own family, SMSgt. Asaeli has used those lessons to mentor and uplift others navigating similar hardships. Her strength, empathy, and leadership continue to shape lives and strengthen bonds across the military community. Her more than two decades of military service, selfless leadership, and profound impact on others make her a true inspiration and a deserving honoree. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize SMSgt. Salud Asaeli for her invaluable contributions to our country and to her community.

RECOGNIZING BRADY RYAN SAGE
FOR WINNING THE THERMO
FISHER SCIENTIFIC JUNIOR
INNOVATORS CHALLENGE ENGI-
NEERING AWARD

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brady Ryan Sage of Rapid City, South Dakota, who earned First Place in Engineering at the Thermo Fisher Scientific Junior Innovators Challenge, the Nation's premier middle school science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) competition.

Brady's project, "Optimizing Driver Flight Distance and Accuracy", demonstrated exceptional creativity and engineering skills, applying physics and design principles to improve golf driver performance. Selected from nearly 2,000 applicants nationwide, Brady's achievement reflects his dedication to science and the strength of STEM education in South Dakota.

I am proud to recognize Brady for his remarkable accomplishment and for representing South Dakota with excellence. His hard work and ingenuity serve as an inspiration to students across our state and our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF NEW HOPE MIS-
SIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise to recognize the exceptional work of the New Hope

Missionary Baptist Church on their 100th Anniversary.

Founded on a warm Sunday in August 1925, New Hope Baptist Church has stood as a steadfast beacon of hope, compassion, and perseverance for the people of South Florida. From its earliest days, the church has provided not only a place of worship, but a source of strength and solidarity for generations of families in Fort Lauderdale.

Over the past century, New Hope has evolved from a modest wooden structure into a vital cornerstone of spiritual and community life in Broward County. The church has been shepherded by 13 pastors, each adding to its legacy through the establishment of new ministries, outreach programs, and community partnerships.

Under the leadership of current pastor Reverend Ricky Scott, the church continues to move forward with a renewed vision for spiritual growth and community engagement. New Hope has continually lived out its mission to serve the Lord by serving others. Through its ministries and outreach the church has fed the hungry, uplifted youth, and comforted families in times of need.

Notably, the church's participation in "Souls to the Polls" has helped strengthen democracy and amplify the voices of those too often unheard. Through efforts like these, New Hope Baptist Church demonstrates that faith and civic duty can work hand in hand to build a more just and compassionate society.

As New Hope Baptist Church marks its centennial year, we celebrate its unwavering commitment to faith, service, and community empowerment. Its century-long legacy stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a congregation dedicates itself to love, justice, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I extend heartfelt congratulations to Pastor Ricky Scott and the entire New Hope Baptist Church family for 100 years of ministry and community leadership. May the next century be filled with continued blessings, growth, and service to all.

HONORING TRINA JACKSON-LIN-
COLN AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S
8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S
WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Trina Jackson-Lincoln as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year in tribute to her more than 30 years of dedicated public service. Since 1995, Ms. Jackson-Lincoln has served in the Office of the City Council, beginning with a temporary role supporting emergency services and growing into her current position as Project Coordinator and City Council Liaison. In this role, she has supported Councilmembers, coordinated key city events, and helped countless residents navigate local government. She has led or contributed to numerous community projects, including the Richmond Beautification Project, AIDS Awareness Day, the Taste of Richmond, Sisters in Solidarity, and the Literacy Fair, while also

serving as liaison to the Richmond Sister City Program and as former staff to the Richmond Youth Council. Trina also helped launch and manage the Richmond Cares Hotline during the COVID-19 pandemic, mentored student interns, and played a key role in advancing racial equity through her leadership in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity. A Richmond native, Trina is a graduate of Contra Costa College and California State University, East Bay, where she earned her bachelor's degree in human development. Over her decades of service, community engagement, and commitment to inclusion, she has had a lasting impact. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Trina Jackson-Lincoln for her decades of dedicated public service, her steadfast commitment to equity, and her enduring contributions to the City of Richmond and its residents.

HONORING THE SERVICE, SAC-
RIFICE, AND LEGACY OF FIRST
LIEUTENANT GERALD J.
MELOFCHIK

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and ultimate sacrifice of United States Army Air Forces First Lieutenant Gerald J. Melofchik. He was a brave American who gave his life in defense of freedom during World War II and whose remains were finally accounted for on June 24, 2025, by the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Accounting Agency (DPAA).

Born and raised in New York City, First Lieutenant Gerald Melofchik embodied the extraordinary patriotism and sense of duty that has long defined America's Greatest Generation. Assigned to the 615th Bombardment Squadron, 401st Bombardment Group (Heavy), Eighth United States Army Air Forces, First Lieutenant Melofchik served as a B-17G "Flying Fortress" pilot in the European Theater of Operations. On August 1, 1944, during a perilous bombing mission over Nazi-occupied France, his aircraft that was nicknamed "Stormy Weather", was struck by anti-aircraft fire, collided with another aircraft, and crashed near Néron, France. Of the nine courageous airmen aboard, two were captured and four were identified from remains found near the crash site. Three airmen, including First Lieutenant Melofchik remained unaccounted for.

For eight decades, his family lived with uncertainty, holding on to faith that he would one day be returned to American soil. His mother never stopped believing that her son would come home.

In 2013, DPAA investigators surveyed the crash site in Néron, mapping a vast debris field consistent with an American World War II air loss. From 2021 to 2023, DPAA partnered with Middle Tennessee State University to excavate the site. Through meticulous scientific analysis that included anthropological review and mitochondrial, Y-chromosome, and autosomal DNA analysis performed with the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, First Lieutenant Melofchik was finally identified.

After 81 years, America now keeps her promise of leaving no one behind.

First Lieutenant Melofchik's name is inscribed on the Wall of the Missing at the Britany American Cemetery in Montjoie Saint Martin, France. Soon, a rosette will be placed beside his name, signifying that he has been accounted for and returned to his country.

But behind the uniform was a beloved son, brother, uncle, and young man with dreams. Gerald was the son of Stephen and Pauline, and brother to Stephen, Marie, and Henry. Though his 18 nieces and nephews never had the privilege of knowing him in life, they grew up honoring his memory through stories of a young man with a competitive spirit on the tennis court, a fondness for Hershey's chocolate bars, and a heart that deeply loved his family and his country.

His life was short, but his impact endures. His courage helped liberate a continent that was occupied for several years under the Nazis. His sacrifice helped preserve the freedoms we enjoy today. And now, generations later, he is welcomed home with full honors, dignity, and profound gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, let it be known that the United States of America does not forget her heroes. Today, we honor First Lieutenant Gerald J. Melofchik, who was a patriot flying into danger so that others might live in peace. May his memory live forever in the hearts of the Nation he served.

On behalf of a grateful nation, we welcome home First Lieutenant Gerald J. Melofchik. His mission is complete. His nation will always remember. His courage will never be forgotten. I thank him for his service and sacrifice.

HONORING MR. KEITH JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Keith Johnson, a 32-year-old musician, author, and cultural ambassador who continues to carry forward his family's musical legacy while proudly representing the Mississippi Delta on an international stage. Known on stage as the "Prince of the Delta Blues," Mr. Johnson is the great-nephew of McKinley Morganfield, better known to the world as Muddy Waters.

Born and raised in Glen Allan, a small community south of Greenville on the edge of Lake Washington in Washington County, Mr. Johnson grew up immersed in a rich tradition of gospel music. While many of his peers focused on sports, his childhood was filled with music and church singing. By the age of 15, he was already a member of the church choir and went on to form his first gospel quartet, The Delta Sensations.

During his senior year at Riverside High School, Mr. Johnson wrote his first official song, *Outstanding Love*, which was adopted as the school's anthem. This pivotal moment sparked his deeper commitment to music and inspired him to pursue it professionally. His passion led him to the Delta Music Institute at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, where he studied audio engineering, songwriting, and performance.

In 2018, Mr. Johnson earned an MBA with a focus in human resource management, com-

binning his passion for music with business expertise to manage all aspects of his career. That same year, he released his debut album, *Come to Mississippi*, honoring his home State's blues legacy. He has since toured internationally, performing across Europe and later in Brazil through a cultural exchange sponsored by Delta State University.

Alongside his solo work, Mr. Johnson performs with Morgan Freeman's Blues Symphonic Orchestra, also known as the Morgan Freeman Blues Experience, contributing vocals, guitar, and harmonica. He has toured nationally with the group over the past two months.

Mr. Johnson, a published author of two books and currently at work on his third, is also channeling his creative energy into music. He is in the process of recording a new album, *Deep in the Mud*, alongside Grammy-nominated producer Vasti Jackson at the legendary Royal Studios in Memphis—a place steeped in musical history. Mr. Johnson describes the collaboration as "history in the making," a testament to both the studio's legacy and the project's cultural significance.

Driven by a deep sense of purpose, Mr. Johnson remains unwavering in his commitment to honoring his roots. He is passionate about shining a spotlight on Glen Allan and the broader Mississippi Delta, working tirelessly to ensure their rich cultural heritage receives the recognition it deserves on the global stage.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the achievements of Mr. Keith Johnson, and in recognizing his extraordinary contributions to music and blues in Mississippi and his unwavering commitment to proving that the blues still carries power, soul, and purpose.

HONORING SONIA BUSTAMANTE AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sonia Bustamante, recognized as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. As Chief of Staff to the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors since 2015, Ms. Bustamante has demonstrated exceptional leadership, vision, and commitment to advancing equity and inclusion across local government. A dedicated public servant and coalition builder, Sonia has led transformative initiatives that strengthen civic engagement and expand opportunity for underrepresented communities. Her coordination of the 2025 Community Impact Fund Townhalls exemplifies her commitment to accessibility and inclusion, ensuring multilingual participation, hybrid access, and youth involvement in the policymaking process. Sonia's leadership has been instrumental in advancing key county initiatives, including the Guaranteed Income Pilot, immigrant legal services, and the African American Wellness Hub, all of which are designed to address systemic inequities in health, housing, and economic stability. A proud UC Berkeley alumna with a

bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Leadership from California State University, San Bernardino, Sonia brings both academic rigor and deep community insight to her work. She is also a mentor to the next generation of public servants, overseeing the county's youth internship program and empowering young leaders to pursue careers in civic engagement and public policy. Known for her ability to manage complex projects and unite diverse stakeholders, Sonia embodies the very spirit of public service, guided by empathy, integrity, and action. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize Sonia Bustamante for her outstanding leadership, her lifelong dedication to equity and justice, and her enduring contributions to the people of Contra Costa County.

TRIBUTE TO LORETTA YOUNG

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the extraordinary service and enduring legacy of Ms. Loretta Young, Commander of American Legion Post 365. Her steadfast leadership and tireless advocacy have shaped the lives of countless veterans and community members across South Florida. Ms. Young will be honored in Sunrise, Florida, for more than 25 years of distinguished service as Commander, the second-longest tenure of any Post Commander in the State of Florida.

Born in 1941 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and raised between the city and the heartlands of South Jersey, Ms. Young is a proud member of the Lenape Nation of New Jersey. Her early years were marked by academic excellence and a deep sense of civic duty, inspired by her father, a retired Philadelphia firefighter. That sense of duty led her to enlist in the United States Air Force, where she served with honor at Travis Air Force Base in California, achieving the rank of A3C in Administration and Base Personnel.

Since assuming command of Post 365 in the year 2000, Ms. Young has exemplified the values of patriotism, leadership, and service. Her tenure includes roles as Post Historian, Service Officer, Executive Officer, and 9th District Commander. She has served on national committees for Legislative Affairs and National Security, and chaired the Department's JROTC and Junior Shooting Sports Program for over two decades. Her leadership has extended far beyond the American Legion, touching civic institutions, youth organizations, and advisory boards throughout Broward County. Ms. Young's community engagement is both vast and impactful. She co-founded the JROTC Support Association in 2006 and currently serves as its President. She has chaired the 23rd Congressional Academy Board for the past ten years and was appointed to the Veterans Advisory Board in 2015. Her commitment to youth, veterans, and civic education has earned her recognition as a Pioneer Day Recipient by the City of Sunrise and induction into the Broward Senior Hall of Fame in 2015.

Her journey of service began in earnest after retiring from American Airlines in 1995,