

the only state seals not included in the display because they were not states or territories when the building was constructed. The fact that these two states were not part of the Union at the time argues for the inclusion of D.C., which, after all, was the Nation's capital at the time. This omission was brought to my attention by a D.C. resident, Luis Landau, a former docent at the LOC.

D.C. residents have always had all the obligations of American citizenship, including paying federal taxes and serving in all the Nation's wars, including the War of 1812, during which the Capitol building, which then housed the LOC, was burned, prompting construction of the Thomas Jefferson Building. It is, therefore, without question that D.C. and its residents should receive equal treatment among the stained glass panels that portray the history of the United States. D.C. residents deserve to have their history and American citizenship recognized.

There is existing evidence that the D.C. seal should have been depicted. The Members of Congress room in the Thomas Jefferson Building, which is not open to the public, depicts the D.C. seal with the depiction of state seals on its ceiling. This precedent reinforces D.C.'s request to be represented among the stained glass panels in the Main Reading Room, which is open to the public.

Congress already includes D.C., or has corrected D.C.'s omission, when honoring the states. For example, each state is entitled to two statues in the Capitol, and D.C. has two statues in the Capitol. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requires the armed services to display the D.C. flag whenever the flags of the states are displayed. Legislation gave D.C. a coin after D.C. was omitted from legislation creating coins for the states. It is long overdue to display the D.C. seal with the seals of the states in the Main Reading Room.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING SEAN MAHER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sean Maher for his more than 25 years of service to the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga. Mr. Maher is being recognized for his leadership and philanthropy that have helped shape the growth and sustainability of the Club.

Mr. Maher was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and moved to our Napa Valley in 1975 when his father, Dick Maher, assumed the role of President of Beringer Winery. He attended Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School in St. Helena and Justin-Siena High School in Napa. Mr. Maher earned his Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from UCLA and received his MBA from St. Mary's College. He is the second of five children born to Dick and the late Marcia Maher, and is the father of two children. Kellen and Loren.

Mr. Maher has been a Board Member and Executive Committee Member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga since 1999. He has served as Board President and Vice President multiple times over the past 26

years, providing consistent leadership through critical periods of growth. From 2004 to 2008, Mr. Maher served as St. Helena Capital Campaign Chair, helping raise millions of dollars to build two Boys & Girls Club Clubhouses in the Upper Napa Valley and expand Club sites throughout the area. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in expanding the Club from modest after-school programs into a multi-site organization serving thousands of children across our St. Helena, Calistoga, and Howell Mountain communities.

Beyond his work with the Boys & Girls Clubs, in the late 1990's, Mr. Maher co-founded Maher Advisors with his father, a consulting firm specializing in the appraisal, sale, and strategic management of wineries. In 2016, Mr. Maher co-founded Aspect Consumer Partners with partner Rodney Clark. The firm focuses on mergers and acquisitions, corporate strategy, and financial advisory services for companies in the wine and spirits, health and beauty, and apparel industries. Mr. Maher has over 24 years of experience in mergers and acquisitions. Reflecting his commitment to social responsibility, Aspect Consumer Partners donates 20 percent of its net earnings annually to charitable causes. Mr. Maher also serves on the St. Helena School Board from 2010 to 2014 and served as School Board President, and his leadership and dedication to educational excellence contributed to strengthening public education in our town of St. Helena.

Mr. Speaker, through more than 25 years of dedicated service, leadership, and generosity, Sean Maher has made lasting contributions to youth and families throughout St. Helena, Calistoga, and the broader Napa Valley community. It is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING GARY MOSES OF
VICTORIA, TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to honor one of the most beloved sons of Texas's 27th Congressional District, Brother Gary Moses of Victoria, Texas.

For more than fifty years, Brother Gary has been the heartbeat of Victoria and the entire Crossroads region. As a longtime educator at Patti Welder Middle School, a legendary radio voice on Majic 95.9, and Victoria's undisputed ambassador of joy, he has touched countless lives with his infectious smile and his genuine love for every person he meets.

Whether he's emceeding the "Gorgeous Grandmas" pageant, television commercials supporting the Marines Toys for Tots, firing up the crowd at Riverside Stadium for the Victoria Generals, or leading the Christmas parade, Brother Gary shows up with enthusiasm that lifts an entire community.

At 73 years young, he is always reminding us that in Victoria, we are all family. His nickname "Brother Gary" is not just a radio handle; it is the truest description of how he treats everyone he encounters. Local businesses surprise him with appreciation breakfasts, and residents make sure he's invited to every celebration because they know an event simply

isn't complete without Brother Gary's presence.

Mr. Speaker, Brother Gary Moses embodies the very best of the Texas spirit: faith, family, and hard work. On behalf of the people of the 27th District and the countless lives he has brightened, I am proud to recognize him today and thank him for reminding us all how one person truly can make a community feel like home.

HONORING LEADER HAKEEM
JEFFRIES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th district of the great state of Florida, I rise today to honor and recognize Congressman HAKEEM SEKOU JEFFRIES for his historic leadership, dedication to public service, and commitment to empowering the next generation.

It is my privilege to deliver this message on behalf of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, presenting Congressman JEFFRIES with this Congressional Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our Nation and his unwavering support of mentorship programs that uplift young men of color. Congressman JEFFRIES embodies the ideals of excellence, leadership, and purpose-driven service that we strive to instill in the thousands of young men we mentor through the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project.

As the first Black leader of the House Democratic Caucus, Congressman JEFFRIES has shattered barriers and exemplified what it means to lead with integrity, resilience, and a steadfast commitment to justice. His advocacy for equity, economic empowerment, and meaningful criminal justice reform has positively impacted countless lives and inspired young men to reach for their highest potential.

The 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project values Congressman JEFFRIES' vision and partnership in creating opportunities for our youth. His leadership has paved the way for young men of color to thrive, demonstrating that perseverance and dedication can lead to extraordinary accomplishments. His remarkable ability to build coalitions and foster collaboration reflects the principles of mentorship and unity that lie at the core of our mission.

Congressman JEFFRIES' life and legacy serve as a powerful example to the next generation, showcasing the impact of purpose-driven leadership and a commitment to improving lives. On behalf of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his efforts to inspire, empower, and uplift communities across the Nation.

I congratulate Leader JEFFRIES on this well-deserved recognition. We celebrate his historic achievements and look forward to continuing our shared mission of mentoring and empowering young men to strive for excellence.

HONORING MONIQUE KOLTERMAN
FOR HER DEDICATED SERVICE
TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monique Kolterman for her dedicated service and steadfast commitment to Catholic education in the Diocese of Arlington.

Monique started her work in the diocese in 2009, serving as an Instructional Aide at Nativity Catholic School in Burke. For several years, she worked hard to support students' academic growth and spiritual development, serving the Nativity community until 2012.

In August 2015, Monique brought her gifts to St. Veronica Catholic School, where she was hired as an Instructional Assistant for second grade. Her dedication and excellence in the classroom quickly led to additional responsibilities, and in August 2019, she accepted a position as one of the lead teachers for fifth grade. Beyond her classroom duties, Monique further enriched student life by serving as the Chess Club Teacher for the afterschool program during the spring of 2023.

Monique holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and is certified by the Virginia Catholic Education Association through the Diocese of Arlington—credentials that demonstrate her professional training and ongoing dedication to excellence.

Her contributions to Catholic education go back even further. Prior to joining the Diocese of Arlington, Monique held various teaching roles across Ohio, including Social Studies Teacher, Middle School English Teacher, CCD Teacher and Eucharistic Minister, French Long-Term Substitute Teacher, and Learning Resource Assistant. Each role highlights her commitment to shaping young minds and hearts with knowledge, integrity, and faith.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize Monique Kolterman not only for her many years of dedicated service but also for the example she sets for students, colleagues, and the wider community. Her unwavering commitment to education demonstrates her role as a teacher and mentor.

RECOGNIZING JOHN PIERSOL AS
OHIO'S 13TH CONGRESSIONAL
DISTRICT'S CHAMPION OF THE
WEEK

HON. EMILIA STRONG SYKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the City of Green's 2025 Volunteer of the Year, John Piersol as Ohio's 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

For the last 30 years, as president of the Green Soccer Association, John helped create opportunities for more than 600 youth players. Here, his inspiring dedication to his community shines through his heartfelt service and purposeful leadership.

John also led the GOAL soccer program, creating inclusive athletic opportunities for disabled individuals ages 6 to 21.

Youth athletics are an essential environment for developing future leaders, building resilience, and instilling the values of teamwork and community. I would like to express my gratitude to John for bringing these valuable opportunities to children in his community.

Unseen hours of sacrifice and countless hours behind the scenes are what distinguishes service from other kinds of work. John's story is a shining example of everyday people rolling up their sleeves and answering the quiet call of community service. I'm pleased today to praise one of these unsung heroes.

Embodying the spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication, John continues to enrich his community through the powerful forces of inclusion and friendly competition. He is a shining example of why our community is known as the "Birthplace of Champions."

HONORING MARIANNA DEWITT
HAWKINS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marianna Dewitt Hawkins for her more than 35 years of dedicated service to the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga. Mrs. Hawkins is being recognized for her leadership as a founding Board Member and her commitment to children and families in the community.

Marianna was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and moved to California during her middle school years, later settling in St. Helena with her husband, John Hawkins. She earned a bachelor's degree from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and pursued graduate studies in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling at the University of Santa Clara. Before dedicating herself to community service, Mrs. Hawkins worked as National Sales and Marketing Director for Round Hill and Rutherford Ranch Wineries.

In 1989, Mrs. Hawkins joined forces with Father John Brenkle and philanthropist Vera Trinchero Torres, as founder of the Boys & Girls Club of St. Helena and Calistoga. As one of the organization's original Board Members, she helped launch the first summer and afterschool programs, which served more than 300 children in the opening week. Mrs. Hawkins helped develop partnerships with local organizations including Rotary, Kiwanis, Soroptimists, and local vintners to sustain and expand programming.

Mrs. Hawkins played an important role in securing the Club's permanent facility in St. Helena, working with community leaders including the Trinchero and Torres families and Andy Beckstoffer. She also supported the Club's expansion to Howell Mountain and Calistoga, including the successful capital campaign for the Calistoga Clubhouse, which opened in 2017. Her advocacy for teen mental health and leadership development programs has helped establish programs focused on youth wellness and personal development.

During the Napa Valley wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Hawkins helped coordinate relief efforts through partnerships with Feed Our Families and World Central

Kitchen, providing meals and essential supplies to families and first responders. Marianna has also been an active member of St. Helena Catholic Church, supporting charitable outreach programs for migrant-worker families and affordable childcare initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, through more than 35 years of service as a founding Board Member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Helena and Calistoga, Marianna Hawkins has made lasting contributions to youth and families throughout the Napa Valley. It is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

HONORING LEONA COOPER-BAKER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th district of the great State of Florida, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Leona Cooper-Baker, a lifelong resident of the City of Miami's Coconut Grove neighborhood. I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation honoring Leona Cooper-Baker.

Whereas, Leona Louise Cooper was born on December 26, 1936. She is a proud descendant of Miami's original Bahamian settlers, and her life was a testament to the rich history and enduring legacy of Miami's newly designated Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove neighborhood; and

Whereas, she was one of nine children born to parents who migrated to Miami from Eleuthera, Bahamas, and she lived her entire life in the City of Coral Gables' Golden Gate subdivision, known for their historic Bahamian bungalow and shotgun wood frame style houses, in a home built on the land where her parents first settled; and

Whereas, after graduating from George Washington Carver School in 1954, Mrs. Cooper-Baker pursued higher education at Lincoln University of Missouri, earning a degree in Elementary Education in 1960; and

Whereas, Mrs. Cooper-Baker dedicated over three decades of her life to educating the youth of Miami-Dade County, beginning her career at Rainbow Park Elementary School in Opa-Locka, continuing at Bunche Park and George Washington Carver, and concluding her distinguished service, in 1992 at Shenandoah Elementary, where she retired; and

Whereas, affectionately known as the "Coconut Grove Historian," Mrs. Cooper-Baker was a passionate advocate for the preservation of Black and Bahamian history in Coconut Grove and Coral Gables, compiling an extensive archive of historic photographs, books, and articles that document the rich cultural heritage of the community; and

Whereas, Mrs. Cooper-Baker's contributions to historic preservation extended to her leadership roles with the Miami/Bahamas Goombay Festival's Historical Committee, the Historical Museum of Southern Florida, the Coral Gables Museum, and the Black Archives, ensuring that the stories of Coconut Grove's pioneers would be preserved for future generations; and

Whereas, Mrs. Cooper-Baker played an instrumental role in securing the designation of Coral Gables MacFarlane Homestead Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places and served as a member of the Coral Gables Historic Preservation Board; and

Whereas, her tireless work to preserve the history of the Little Bahamas neighborhood,