

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,

Golden Gate subdivision, and the broader Coconut Grove community has left an indelible mark, earning her widespread respect and admiration; and

Whereas, Mrs. Cooper-Baker was preceded in death by her parents and siblings, and she is survived by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and other relatives, including her beloved niece Clarice Cooper, president of the Coconut Grove Village West Homeowners and Tenants Association; and

Whereas, the Coconut Grove community and all who were touched by her life will forever cherish the memory of her generosity, wisdom, and unwavering dedication to the preservation of history and education; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to recognize the life of Leona Louise Cooper-Baker, extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and loved ones, and honor her immeasurable contributions to the community and to the preservation of Black and Bahamian history and culture.

REMEMBERING DENNIS CAHILL

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember and honor Dennis Cahill, a devoted public servant and lifelong Tempean who passed away last month. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy of leadership, craftsmanship, creativity, and love for the city he helped shape.

A bricklayer by trade and a proud union member, Dennis built homes, schools, churches, and public spaces long before he held elected office. Through his family's company, Cahill Contracting, he trained and mentored apprentices and took pride in teaching the craft to the next generation. That same commitment to workforce development later guided his service as Arizona's Director of Apprenticeship Services, where he worked to expand opportunity for young tradespeople across our state.

His eleven years on the Tempe City Council came during a period of significant growth in Tempe. Dennis took part in decisions that shaped the city's future. He championed the creation of Tempe Town Lake, pushed for the development of a regional light rail system, and supported one of Tempe's earliest efforts to protect public health through an indoor-smoking ordinance. He also helped launch the Ensure to Insure program so that more young people could access affordable auto insurance. Today, the Dennis J. Cahill Senior Center stands as a tribute to his years of advocacy on behalf of Tempe families.

Public service was only one dimension of his impact. Dennis was an artist whose mosaics brighten public spaces throughout Tempe, a storyteller who brought people together, and a student of history who believed deeply in the principles of the Constitution. His patriotism inspired his friends, neighbors, and especially his children and grandchildren.

Dennis was the son of Evelyn and James Cahill and the big brother of David, Donald, and Dwight. He is survived by his children, James, Maret, and Brendan; by many grand-

children and great-grandchildren; and by relatives and friends who loved him dearly. He spent his final years with his beloved, Liz Varney.

Dennis leaves behind a city that reflects his work, his creativity, and his belief in community. From Tempe Town Lake to the senior center that bears his name, his influence is visible in the places where families gather, learn, and build their lives. Tempe families will continue to benefit from the causes he championed.

Mr. Speaker, we remember Dennis Cahill not only for what he built, but for how he built it. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, and I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring a craftsman, artist, public servant, and father who helped shape Tempe into the city it is today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG CASAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mr. CASAR. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 289; NAY on Roll Call No. 292; NAY on Roll Call No. 294; NAY on Roll Call No. 295; NAY on Roll Call No. 296; NAY on Roll Call No. 298; NAY on Roll Call No. 299; YEA on Roll Call No. 301; NAY on Roll Call No. 303; NAY on Roll Call No. 304; and NAY on Roll Call No. 305.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN OF NEW JERSEY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Organization for Women of New Jersey (NOW-NJ) as they celebrate their historic 50-year milestone of promoting equal rights for women and girls. It is my privilege to recognize the powerful impact made by NOW-NJ to build a New Jersey where everyone, regardless of race, gender identity, or background has the freedom and opportunity to thrive.

Since 1975, this multi-issue, multi-strategy organization has gone above and beyond for marginalized communities and stands as one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in our country. NOW-NJ continues to lead the charge in efforts to combat violence and harassment against women, and push back against renewed attacks on reproductive rights, civil rights, and LGBTQ+ rights. I commend NOW-NJ for their outstanding holistic approach to advocate for social change.

For half a century, this group has led with purpose, through intersectional, anti-racist grassroots activism, to expand opportunities in education and the workforce. It is valuable for New Jersey residents to have NOW-NJ as a resource for guidance and leadership. NOW-NJ's legacy of resilience will live on for generations.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in honoring NOW-NJ for their exceptional contributions to the community and congratulating them on their 50th anniversary of service.

HONORING MARKENZY LAPOINTE

HON. FEDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career and inspiring journey of Markenzy Lapointe, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. Appointed by President Joseph Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in December of 2022, Mr. Lapointe led an office of nearly 500 attorneys and support professionals dedicated to investigating and prosecuting federal crimes in South Florida and litigating civil matters in which the United States has an interest. Mr. Lapointe served in this capacity until he ended his term with the outgoing Biden Administration. His leadership in this pivotal role serves as a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice and public service.

Mr. Lapointe's remarkable legal career began with the Florida Supreme Court, where he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Harry Lee Anstead from 1999 to 2001. He subsequently joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, handling federal criminal matters ranging from narcotics and firearms offenses to bank and mortgage fraud. His tenure in private practice included over a decade at Boies Schiller Flexner LLP, where he rose from litigation associate to partner before joining Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.

Mr. Lapointe served as a partner at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP in Miami, where he handled complex commercial disputes, high-exposure product liability cases, professional malpractice matters, and criminal investigations. As co-chair of the firm's Advancement of Diverse Attorneys Committee, he demonstrated a steadfast dedication to promoting the retention and advancement of attorneys from various backgrounds, exemplifying his commitment to equity and inclusion within the legal profession.

Throughout his career, Mr. Lapointe has also demonstrated an exceptional commitment to pro bono service. He has received numerous accolades for his advocacy, including the Legal Aid/Put Something Back Pro Bono Award in Child Advocacy and the Daily Business Review's Most Effective Lawyer Award for Pro Bono in Family Law.

A proud alumnus of Florida State University, Mr. Lapointe earned both his law degree from the College of Law and his degree in finance from the College of Business. He also attended Miami Dade College, reflecting his deep ties to the South Florida community.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Lapointe's personal story is a profound source of inspiration. Born in Haiti, he immigrated to the United States as a teenager and settled in Miami's Liberty City neighborhood. A graduate of Edison High School, Mr. Lapointe went on to serve his country as a U.S. Marine during the Gulf War. Today, he is not only a