

boards, supported initiatives for cultural diversity, and been an active member of organizations such as the National Black Nurses Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Ms. Gladys Diji, a woman of poise and resilience, whose influence extends to her beloved family and community. On this milestone birthday, we celebrate her extraordinary life, her enduring legacy, and the profound impact she has made on all who know her.

CONGRATULATING THE GRAND
OLE OPRY ON 100 YEARS

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a true American treasure that I have the privilege to represent in Congress. This year marks 100 years since the Grand Ole Opry first introduced audiences around the world to country music and to Nashville.

My home state of Tennessee is known for many things. If you had to list some of the most prominent, you might think of the Great Smoky Mountains of Elvis Presley, but you would most certainly include the Grand Ole Opry.

Nashville is known around the world as Music City USA. That would not be the case had it not been for the Opry. But the longtime show isn't exclusive to Tennessee's story. No, it's part of American culture.

The Opry was around before the Great Depression and World War II. It has seen a lot, endured a lot, and served as a beacon of hope decade after decade.

The program's venue has moved within Nashville a few times, but it is primarily known for two locations the Ryman Auditorium off Broadway and its current location on Opry Mills Drive. Both locations enjoy hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

Without the Grand Ole Opry, we would likely not know the names Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn, or Willie Nelson. Heaven forbid, we might not even know Dolly Parton had it not been for the show.

WSM, those are its call letters, was one of the first radio stations to connect urban and rural culture. The Opry was also a first to transform a hobby into a marketable and lucrative industry.

Crossover artists are not uncommon today. But they were virtually nonexistent before 1925. The Opry hosted honky-tonk, bluegrass, gospel, and rockabilly performers. This paved the way for what we know today as country music.

From music legends to up-and-comers, musicians around the world rightfully revere the Grand Ole Opry as a place of prestige, history, and continued relevance.

There are fewer than 100 members of the Grand Ole Opry. It is indeed an elite crowd of men and women who made the world better, who embody country music, and who are part of our shared heritage as Americans. In fact, that membership sits at the top of dozens of obituaries among some of our nation's finest performers.

This year, TripAdvisor ranked Nashville 6th among the best American travel destinations.

More than 17 million people visited last year. That is in large part because of the influence of the Grand Ole Opry over the last 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, any seat in the house will do at the Grand Ole Opry. To bear witness to the iconic barn background behind the stage, the lights that look like stars above you, and the acoustics around you makes for an unforgettable evening. No matter how many chances I get to see a show in person, I always sense the history, the importance, and the joy that the Grand Ole Opry represents.

As the United States Representative of Tennessee's 6th Congressional District, I rise today to enthusiastically congratulate the Grand Ole Opry on a century of entertainment and a century of significance. I am confident the man or woman in my shoes 100 years from now will feel compelled to do the same.

RECOGNIZING JANETTE GIBB FOR
HER SERVICE AT THE MAN-
CHESTER VA MEDICAL CENTER

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of APRN Janette Gibb of the Manchester VA Medical Center. Her commitment to going the extra mile and providing the highest standard of healthcare to veterans in Manchester exemplifies the virtue of service to community and country.

One story in particular highlights Janette's positive impact. In August, 2021, a veteran was at the Manchester VA for routine cardiac tests, administered by Janette. During the tests, the veteran entered sudden cardiac arrest and collapsed in the hallway. A MERT team was called, but Janette immediately took action. She understood what the veteran was experiencing and administered CPR until the veteran started responding and the MERT team arrived. This veteran credits Janette with saving their life.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Janette Gibb for her selflessness and dedication to the veterans she has cared for. By giving so much to those who served our Nation, she has made her community a better place. Granite staters are grateful that our brave veterans may receive care from professionals like Janette, and I wish her all the best in the years to come.

HONORING DANIELLE MCCARTHY
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR WOM-
EN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in 2016, a neurosurgeon removed an invasive meningioma—an aggressive, grapefruit-sized tumor—from Danielle McCarthy's brain. The tumor, lovingly named Loretta, formed on her brain's temporal lobe, and she was told she would never walk or speak again. However, her post-surgery

condition was deemed a miracle by her doctors, and she began her slow recovery. Danielle would endure multiple major surgeries unrelated to her tumor over the next six years. During the height of COVID-19, destiny struck. Joey Perfito, her best friend and instrumental in Danielle's recovery, helped adopt a rescue puppy, already named Loretta. With the support of Joey and her strong-willed puppy, now named Loretta Josephine, Danielle relearned how to live and adapt to her new life. Together, they turned Danielle's hardships into triumphs. Danielle was determined to give back to those who saved her life: neuroscience and pet adoption. One thing Danielle remembered from her old life was fashion. Danielle and Joey created Loretta Josephine Boutique, an online shopping experience for women that gives back to the community. Through the boutique, Danielle donates her time to support those with brain trauma and pet rescue.

Both animal and health initiatives drive their vision daily as they continue to uplift and inspire others through community engagement. This prompted Danielle and Joey to start a nonprofit called Brain Warriors Foundation of America. The duo's budding nonprofit focuses on fundraising to further neuroscience research and give financial support to caregivers and patients suffering brain-related injuries. Danielle recognizes she's on borrowed time. She's grateful to be a voice for those who have lost their own battle and those who are currently struggling during their recovery. They encourage all to join Team Loretta Josephine Boutique as they continue to make a difference in Central Florida—the place they call home.

CELEBRATING THE CHINESE CLUB
OF WESTERN NEW YORK

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible legacy and ongoing contributions of the Chinese Club of Western New York, a cornerstone of our community that has played an essential role in preserving and promoting Chinese culture for over six decades. Originally founded as the Chinese Club of Buffalo in 1954, this vibrant organization has grown into a vital part of our region, bringing together hundreds of active members, including families, professionals, and youth, all united in a shared purpose of cultural exchange and community building.

Under the leadership of President Beiyang Liu and Director of External Affairs Yanhong Na Baranski, the Chinese Club of Western New York continues to thrive and has consistently demonstrated its commitment to charitable service, cultural preservation, and the enhancement of social bonds among its members. Through endeavours like the Buffalo Chinese School, the Western New York Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Buffalo Chinese Health Professionals, and various youth and senior clubs, the Chinese Club of Western New York has created spaces for learning, networking, and mutual support across generations.

The Chinese Club of Western New York's efforts go far beyond just serving its members.

It plays an important role in fostering connections with the greater community, celebrating cultural diversity, and promoting fellowship through community events and initiatives. As we mark the occasion of Chinese New Year, we not only celebrate the rich traditions and heritage of the Chinese community, but we also honor the spirit of unity, resilience, and the shared values that bind us together.

Today, let us continue to support and grow organizations like the Chinese Club of Western New York, as they continue to enrich the lives of so many through their vibrant community, past accomplishments, and the exciting future that lies ahead. Please join me in celebrating the Chinese Club of Western New York, and wishing them great success as they remain a source of strength, inspiration, and cultural pride for generations to come.

EXPOSING BIDEN LAWFARE
PERSECUTION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to former Congressman Bob Livingston for courageously exposing the shocking mistakes and abusive lawfare of former Attorney General, Merrick Garland. Innocent Americans have been persecuted by the subversion of the Justice Department under the Biden Administration, beginning with the deranged, maniacal persecution of President Donald Trump.

Under the Republican trifecta of the House, Senate, and Presidency, the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation will work on behalf of the people, not against them. American families can trust Attorney General Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel, both with proven records of professional competence.

I include in the RECORD the following letter below, written by Bob Livingston to the Wall Street Journal, regarding his own experiences with former Attorney General, Merrick Garland and the Justice Department:

"Dear Mr. Attorney General, Your time in office won't run out a moment too soon. You will be remembered as a tool in the Democratic Party's strategy of misusing the Justice Department to visit injustice on innocent people with differing political views. I am a victim of your dysfunctional leadership, but unlike many of your targets, I have survived unscathed.

I am 81. At the outset of my career, I enlisted in the U.S. Navy and sewed on active duty for two years, followed by an additional four in the reserves. When I returned to civilian life, I completed my undergraduate studies and law school. After some years of private practice, I successfully served as a prosecutor in three separate government offices.

I was then elected to Congress, where I served for 22 years. Shortly thereafter I created and ran the Livingston Group, a lobbying firm. For 25 years we represented defense, education, energy, health and corporate clients of all kinds. We also represented international clients, private and sovereign, but only if we were assured their interests coincided with those of the U.S.

In 2022 two Federal Bureau of Investigation agents came to my home in New Orleans and

questioned me about incidents involving our representation of an international client in 2018. Having nothing to hide, I spoke with them for 2½ hours.

I told them everything I could remember. I told them the truth. They quibbled with me about facts and reminded me of incidents that for whatever reason I couldn't recall. I have been interviewed by FBI agents in the past about varying matters under investigation, never about me, and I thought this no different. I was given to believe that they were looking only for background information.

At the end of the interview, the agents presented me with a search warrant for all my company's records related to their questions. As the lead agent left, she thanked me for my service to the country. But as I read the search warrant, I realized that this meeting was neither benign nor simply for background. The next day, with my wife listening, I called the agent and asked directly: "Am I a target?" To my great shock, the agent said yes.

In all my years as a lobbyist, I have bent over backward to comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act. My company has always filed reports pursuant to the law when we thought they were due. I have repeatedly told my clients that we must comply with FARA to avoid any possibility of transgressing the law. The company has employed a full-time officer to assure compliance.

Yet Justice Department prosecutors said on several occasions that I was the target of felony charges. Every day and night for 20 months, I lived with the possibility that the hammer could drop at any moment. Everything I worked for would be tarnished. My firm would collapse, my employees would lose their jobs, all of us would be ruined in the press, and I could go to prison.

The conduct of law enforcement was torturous. In January 2024, a prosecutor interviewed a member of my staff, using curse words and accusing her of lying. In December 2023 an FBI agent harassed our FARA compliance officer, David Lonie, who had been a congressional staffer on the House Rules Committee before working with us for many years.

Lonie was an honorable and decent man, the epitome of integrity and honor. The agent nevertheless told him that if he knew what was good for him, he would talk. Dave was scared to death. He went to bed on Dec. 31, 2023, and didn't wake the next day. His family is devastated.

My company and I were innocent of all charges, and while I am pleased this Kafkaesque harassment is over, I am not content to simply shrug my shoulders and move on. We spent incredible amounts of money on legal counsel, more than three times what we earned by representing the client at issue. Our attorneys prepared an 88-page brief rebutting all charges. They succeeded in backing prosecutors down, but I am convinced the department's actions were political and malicious, targeting me as a lobbyist who has supported Donald Trump and been critical of President Biden.

Under your leadership, Mr. Garland, the Justice Department has been guilty of lopsided enforcement. Hunter Biden was nearly given a sweetheart immunity deal following receipt of millions of dollars from foreign sources for which he didn't file income tax returns or acknowledge his probable obligations under FARA. He was subsequently convicted for only a few of his crimes but has now been given a blanket pardon by his father. Members of the Trump administration and Mr. Trump himself have been hounded and arrested. They've had their lives ruined for minor white-collar infractions. Mr.

Trump has prevailed over attempts to destroy him, but others have been less fortunate.

As for our case, as we detailed in our brief, a Democratic firm wasn't as compliant regarding similar facts over a much longer period and to my knowledge was never investigated. If we had been charged and tried for six-year-old incidents despite our constant efforts to comply with the law, our case would have become additional evidence that you have led a department that has overtly ignored its obligation to provide justice.

The statute of limitations expired on our case in November, and prosecutors have said they are no longer interested in pursuing charges. That's nice but hardly satisfactory. As a matter of justice, Mr. Garland, you owe us and the American people a profuse apology."

HONORING CHENAVIA SMITH AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, as a member of Laborers' Local 517 for 13 years, Chenavia Smith, affectionately known as Che Smith, is a proud LiUNA DERO organizer. She has served as a member and in leadership positions with the NAACP and CBTU CFL Chapter.

She was also the first and formerly the youngest Black woman auditor for her local, a member of APRI, the E board, COPE Committee, and delegate member of her CLC, as well as an activist, advocate, and political advisor throughout the state of Florida and beyond.

She has collaborated with numerous resilient communities to bring to fruition economic catalysts like apprenticeship ordinances and Community Benefits Agreements.

She is an especially gratefully gifted wife and mother who believes that all families should have family-supporting wages, great benefits, the opportunity for advancement, and the ability to retire with respect and dignity.

CELEBRATING SISTER BETH
BROSNER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Sister Beth Brosner, whose leadership at Heart, Love & Soul Food Pantry, and Dining Room in Niagara Falls, New York has helped to transform lives and greatly contribute to the community for nearly a decade. Since her appointment in 2010 as Executive Director at Heart, Love & Soul Food Pantry and Dining Room, until her retirement in 2020, Sister Beth has been a force for compassionate and collaborative action—a leader who mobilized her community to transform the way it addresses poverty and inspired long-term positive change in those she faithfully served with dignity and respect.