

HONORING ANGELA G. HUTCHINS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 21, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Angela G. Hutchins—a trailblazer, servant leader, and beacon of hope—whose extraordinary contributions have forever changed the landscape of Adams County and the state of Mississippi.

Mrs. Hutchins made history as the first Black female to serve as a supervisor in Adams County, representing District 3 with distinction and purpose. Her groundbreaking election shattered barriers and inspired countless individuals to believe in the power of representation and progress. Her legacy as a history-maker exemplifies the strides our communities continue to make toward greater inclusivity and equity.

Throughout her life and career, Mrs. Hutchins has dedicated herself to uplifting others. From her beginnings as an administrative assistant to her historic role as Supervisor for District 3, she has led with vision, unwavering resolve, and a profound sense of duty. Her leadership has addressed critical challenges, fostered meaningful community engagement, and earned her widespread respect and admiration of those she serves.

Mrs. Hutchins's influence extends far beyond Adams County. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors and the Mississippi Minority Caucus. In addition, she has been a Commissioner for the Local Workforce Board, a Liaison for Mississippi Action in Progress (MAP), and a member of the Board of Directors for the Southwest Planning and Development District. Her service also includes leadership roles with the National Organization of Black County Officials, the National Association of County Officials, and her membership in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

As we commemorate Black History Month, it is essential to recognize leaders like Mrs. Angela G. Hutchins. Her historic achievements and unwavering dedication serve as a profound source of inspiration. Her resilience gives us hope, her advocacy motivates us to act, and her leadership assures us of a brighter future for Adams County, Mississippi, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Angela G. Hutchins for her outstanding contributions to her community, her state, and her country. She has etched her name in history, and her legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF NORMA GONSALVES**HON. ANDREW R. GARBARINO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 21, 2025*

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Norma Gonsalves, who passed away on February 4, 2025, at the age of 90. A beloved wife, mother, and grandmother, Norma's legacy of service to her community is a testament to her lifelong passion for helping others.

Born in Brooklyn in 1934, Norma spent 25 years as an educator in the New York City school system, where she devoted herself to introducing her students to classic literature and the performing arts. After moving to East Meadow with her husband John, Norma immersed herself in community engagement through her work with civic and volunteer groups, and founded the Council of East Meadow Community Organizations. In 1998, Norma was elected to the Nassau County Legislature, where she represented Legislative District 13, including East Meadow, Salisbury, and parts of surrounding communities. During her nearly 20 years of service, Norma prioritized a bipartisan approach to public service and became the legislature's presiding officer in 2011. She championed initiatives to address drug addiction, support veterans, and reach out to the Hispanic community.

Norma's unwavering passion for teaching and commitment to the well-being of her community have left an immeasurably positive impact on those she served. Norma's legacy will live on in the community she helped build, the countless lives she touched with her work, and in her family. Norma is survived by her three children, Gregg, Dana, and Carin, and four grandchildren.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DOUG LaMALFA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 21, 2025*

Mr. LaMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 10, 2025. I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 63 due to unavoidable circumstances. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 63.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF EDWARD JOHNSON**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 21, 2025*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Johnson, a distinguished World War II Army combat veteran and cherished member of our Bedford community, who recently passed away at the age of 98.

Like so many others, Edward answered the call to serve our Nation during one of the most pivotal times in history. He was part of the Greatest Generation—a generation of patriotic Americans who put service above self every day. Through bravery, resilience, and unwavering dedication, Edward contributed to the defense of democracy and fought for the freedoms we continue to enjoy today.

For one year, three months, and sixteen days Edward operated in the European Theater of Operations during WWII. During his service to this country, Edward earned the World War II Victory Medal, the Army Occupation Medal and Germany Clasp, the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. In January 2025, I had the distinct honor to present Edward with the Battle Participation Star also known as the Bronze Battle Star,

which was awarded to him in May, 1945 but never received.

Following his military service, Edward continued a life of service to his family, community, and country. Through a blind date, he met his wife, Mildred, who blessed him with six children. Edward lived and worked on the family farm where he enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren riding in the Case tractor and building fences, served as a founding member of the Gravity Legion where he helped build the Legion Hall, and volunteered with the Gravity Community Fire Department.

We owe a profound debt of gratitude to Edward and all those of the Greatest Generation who sacrificed so much to secure the freedoms we cherish today. Let us ensure that their legacy endures, and their contributions are never forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Edward's family and loved ones. May we forever honor Edward's service and memory.

HONORING OFFICER COLE  
McGINNIS**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 21, 2025*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Cole McGinnis, a dedicated public servant and Yazoo City native, who was recently recognized with the prestigious Stephen Siller Follow the Footsteps Award for his exemplary service in law enforcement.

Officer McGinnis has demonstrated unwavering commitment to his community and to the safety of his fellow citizens. A proud graduate of Yazoo City High School and Holmes Community College, he began his law enforcement career in 2005 as a reserve deputy under Sheriff James T. Williams. His dedication led him to become a certified law enforcement officer in 2011 under Sheriff Tommy Vaughn, marking the beginning of a distinguished career.

In addition to his work in Yazoo County, Officer McGinnis served as a part-time deputy for Humphreys County under Sheriff J.D. Roseman from July 2011 to 2018. His commitment to public safety extended to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, where he worked as an inspector until November 2022. Following that, Officer McGinnis joined the Madison Police Department, where he continues to serve with distinction and was recently named "Top Cop" for his outstanding performance. Officer McGinnis is not only a dedicated professional but also a proud family man.

He is the son of Myron and Bernice McGinnis, the husband of Esther Coates McGinnis, and the father of Bryson McGinnis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Officer Cole McGinnis for his continued service and dedication. His contributions to the state of Mississippi and his commitment to upholding the values of public safety are truly commendable.

HONORING LOUIS G. BETZ, JR. AS  
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
FLORIDA

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 21, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Louis G. Betz, Jr., a lobbyist and political strategist, lived his entire life in his beloved Tampa. Louis began his political life in 1992 as a campaign manager for a successful Hillsborough County Commission race. This led to the launching of Louis Betz and Associates, a full-service lobbying firm both at the state and local levels. Clients ranged from Fortune 500 companies to small start-up companies, as well as not-for-profits. His campaign experiences included local, state, and federal elections on both sides of the aisle. He worked proudly and tirelessly for his clients. He was always known for his integrity, perpetual optimism, and pure relentlessness.

Louis led the charge to pass the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act, which allows cities and counties to implement and utilize red light camera safety programs. He believed this program, enacted in 2010, would save lives, and he was instrumental in the statewide implementation.

In 2011, working with the Crisis Center of Tampa Bay and various other organizations, Louis worked hard to help pass the landmark sexual assault legislation, Walk in Their Shoes Act, that expands the admissibility of collateral crime or "similar fact" evidence in cases where a person is charged with child molestation or a sexual offense. The Act also authorizes the use of service or therapy animals in courts hearing sexual offense cases.

In 2014, Louis proudly organized and brought back Hillsborough Day to the Florida Capitol to showcase the community to decision-makers in Tallahassee. This annual event still continues to this day.

In 2020, after a double lung transplant, Louis founded More Transplants More Life (MTML) dedicated to improving the processes to allow for more organs for transplantation to individuals waiting on the national organ transplant list and to provide support for patients and living donors.

Louis was also very involved in his community, serving on the Wellswood Civic Association (1988 to 1995), Tampa Homeowners Association of Neighborhoods (THAN, 1988 to 1996), Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel, the University of Tampa Board of Counselors (1995 to 2002), Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel, serving under Mayor Dick Greco (1995), Joshua House Board of Directors (1996 to 2006), Museum of Science and Industry Board of Directors (1997 to 2003), Cubmaster for his son's Cub Scout Pack (2004 to 2006), member of the Italian Club of Tampa and Florida State Fair Authority Board member (serving with State Agriculture & Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson). Louis also organized, along with state representative Ed Narain, Senator Arthenia Joyner's 50 year anniversary for practicing law (2020).

Louis' biggest passion was helping people. His heart and his brain rivaled in size. He thrived being challenged, hence his trademarked signature line, "You Can't Beat Relentless".

He dearly loved his country, the state of Florida, and his Tampa community. Most of all he loved his family—his high school sweetheart, Jill Ippolito Betz, his children, Victoria and Louis III, as well as his grandchildren. Family was always first, and as he always reminded everyone, "I'm the happiest guy you will ever meet," and he lived it every day. Words to live by.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF PINE BEACH

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 21, 2025*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, nestled along the southern shore of the Toms River, in Ocean County, New Jersey, just near the mouth of the beautiful Barnegat Bay, is the Borough of Pine Beach.

This picturesque Jersey town boasts of a warm and robust community where residents cherish American values, dependable, friendly neighbors and a storied history with a limitless future, full of promise.

On March 25, 2025, Pine Beach will mark its 100th anniversary of its founding with celebrations, dedications, contests and great fanfare.

Dubbed "The Pearl of the Toms River," the Borough's beginnings are rooted in the work and vision of two retail merchants from Philadelphia, Robert M. Horter and George Kelly, who launched a small summer colony along the coast of New Jersey by acquiring land in 1908 under the name of the Pine Beach Improvement Company. To fulfill their dream of a home away from home—at no better place than the remarkable Jersey coastal area—they borrowed many street names from the Philadelphia area that soon saw construction workers raise sturdy attractive summer and retirement homes. By 1910, 109 deeds were recorded and 22 homes built, with groundbreaking for new homes continuing each year.

As this small desirable community began to grow, local leaders looked towards establishing a stand-alone borough. On March 25, 1925, a majority of electors residing in the Pine Beach area voted to incorporate the borough of Pine Beach in the County of Ocean. Residents of the newly minted Borough of Pine Beach voted on April 21, 1925, for their first Mayor, Council, Assessor, and Collector.

We are grateful to the members of the Pine Beach Preservation Society Historical Committee, who led the research and preservation work that has helped secure and share the history of the Borough's founding. President George Roksvaag and Vice President Justine Saxton, are credited with pouring through Borough and Berkeley Township archives, as well as documents of the Ocean County Historical Society and the New Jersey State Library. The Committee's efforts culminated in its strong recommendation that the current Mayor and Council celebrate and adopt the date of March 25, 1925, as the Borough's official Founders Day.

And celebrate they will. The official kick-off begins on Monday, March 24, 2025, with Mayor Lawrence Cuneo, and the Borough's Council Members James Keesling, Lori

McGee, Raymond Newman, Richard Polhemus, James Saxton, and Barry Wieck at a town hall ceremony where they will proclaim the official date of Pine Beach Founders Day.

Day-long ceremonies will follow on Tuesday, March 25, led by the Pine Beach Preservation Society's Events Committee at Borough Hall. Additionally, delightful artwork depicting scenes of Pine Beach life composed by local artists will be on display at the nearby Pine Beach Elementary School, home to the Pine Beach "Panthers" and its 400 students.

To cap off the day, Borough celebrations continue with a Pine Beach Founder's Day Reception at the Pine Beach Yacht Club. Older than the Borough itself, the Yacht Club has been a true "anchor" of the community since 1916, hosting social and civic activities like dinners, dances, skits, fairs, auctions, moonlight cruises, and teas. Its Junior Sailing Program helps train, shape and prepare New Jersey's next generation of sailors. The evening will include a presentation by Gretchen Coyle, a writer and member of the New Jersey Maritime Museum who has written about Pine Beach.

A landmark in the midst of Pine Beach's history is the Pine Beach Volunteer Fire Company No. 1. The original members—including Howard Hutchinson, LeRoy Hutchinson and Charles Creamer, Jr.—answered the first calls nearly 100 years ago and today's Company President, John Kubilewicz, Chief David McKay and all the dedicated Executive Officers Line Officers carry the same first responder attributes of courage, selflessness dedication to their community. Fire Company No. 1 is known for also hosting great community events and it too will celebrate its 100th anniversary on December 11, 2025.

The heart of the community, Mr. Speaker, may be its historic chapel, a "summer church" built in 1910 by the Reverend August Pohlman, who is believed to have built the first summer home in Pine Beach in 1909. Then a pastor of the Temple Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, he became the first pastor of the chapel. Initially used by both Protestants and Catholics and even doubling as a schoolhouse for a time, it was put to year-round use in 1932 with a resident pastor. Today, Pine Beach Chapel continues its inspiring worship traditions with Sunday services, Bible studies and other faith activities.

When recapping Pine Beach landmarks, we must also highlight the original home of the Admiral Farragut Academy, named after the Civil War naval hero who famously declared in battle "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" For six decades, between 1933 and 1994, the school operated as one of only two Naval Honor Schools in the Nation. Future Navy aviator and astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr. once attended the school. The history of the academy lives on today at its southern campus in St. Petersburg, Fla.

It's been a remarkable, impressive 100 years for Pine Beach. Today, the Borough has more than 900 households and more than 2,100 people, according to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau figures. As the congressman for Pine Beach, it is my pleasure to congratulate the entire community and join you in celebrating this important milestone. You are truly blessed to call Pine Beach your hometown, an amazing place to visit, live, and raise a family.