

Rhodesdale; very special great-granddaughter, Arya; and several nephews and a niece. Besides his parents, Mr. Wroten is preceded in death by his brothers; Matthew and George Wroten.

The Eastern Shore is forever grateful for Chief Wroten's commitment to service and his dedication to Maryland.

REMEMBERING MR. DARRELL  
ROWSER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Darrell Rowser, a man whose strength, dedication, and unwavering love for his family left a lasting impact on everyone who had the privilege of knowing him. Mr. Rowser's commitment to his work, faith, and most importantly, his family, defined the essence of his character.

Born on September 14, 1958, in Buffalo, New York, to his late father Bertin Rowser, and his mother, Marlene Rowser, Mr. Rowser was the third of five children. He received his formal education through the Buffalo Public School system and graduated from Kensington High School in 1976. He then went on to receive his Associate's Degree at Medaille College.

Mr. Rowser was a dedicated athlete, excelling in basketball, track, and Taekwondo. He won All-High championships in the 400-meter and 800-meter races at Kensington High School and later continued playing basketball, winning championships with the North Buffalo Community Center league. After 30 years of training, he earned a Black Belt 2nd Dan in Taekwondo. Mr. Rowser also had a love for music, playing bass guitar with his brothers in a band, and filling his home with his favorite songs.

After college, Mr. Rowser began his career at General Motors for 10 years, later working at Ford Motor Company Stamping Plant where he retired in 2024 after 33 years. While at Ford, Mr. Rowser rose to the role of Team Leader, earning him a Six Sigma Lean Belt certification which represented his commitment to knowledge, efficiency, and excellence. Mr. Rowser was known to be fair but firm at work, and with his recognizable voice that commanded attention, he was greatly respected by his team.

What truly defined Mr. Rowser was his deep love for his family. His greatest joy was spending time with his wife Jacqueline and their children Brandon and Brianna. Mr. and Mrs. Rowser shared a 37-year marriage built on love, faith, and cherished memories. He is survived by his wife and children, his mother Marlene Rowser, mother-in-law Violet Lewis, brother-in-law Darryl Prude, and many other loving family members and friends.

Mr. Darrell Rowser lived a life devoted to his family, his work, and his faith. His unwavering love for his family and his commitment to those around him left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Mr. Rowser believed deeply in the importance of family, and he worked tirelessly to create a life full of love, faith, and cherished moments. His strength, kindness, and dedication will always be remembered,

and his legacy will continue to inspire all those whose lives he touched.

APPRECIATING THE UNITED WAY  
OF THE MIDLANDS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize the United Way of the Midlands on their 100th birthday.

Founded in 1925 and now serving six counties in central South Carolina, the United Way of the Midlands continues to unite people and resources to improve the quality of life in the community.

The United Way of the Midlands is a branch of the 135 year-old United Way which works to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities to advance the common good. In the Midlands, this purpose is seen through tackling problems like homelessness, children's literacy, and lack of access to healthcare.

In support of these initiatives, Ms. MacKenzie Scott donated a bountiful ten million dollars in 2020, and due to her generosity, the organization decided to make it their goal to match her donation.

Proudly, United Way of the Midlands announced that upon reaching their 100th birthday, they have achieved that goal and matched her donation.

Donations are distributed in the community to tackle issues such as affordable housing, improve workforce development, and encourage improvements in child literacy and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) studies.

I am grateful for the commitment of the United Way of the Midlands to serve and better the people of South Carolina.

RECOGNIZING SCLERODERMA  
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scleroderma Awareness Month, an important commemoration dedicated to increasing public understanding and awareness of Scleroderma, a chronic autoimmune disease that impacts approximately 300,000 individuals across the United States. Scleroderma, meaning "hard skin," is a rare autoimmune disease characterized by the abnormal growth of connective tissue, leading to skin thickening and potential involvement of internal organs, which can result in serious complications.

Each June, we unite with the brave patients, families, and devoted healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to advocate for research, treatment, and support for those affected by scleroderma. This month not only serves as a time of recognition but also as a call to action to advance our commitment to finding a cure for this debilitating disease.

Organizations such as the Scleroderma Foundation, the Scleroderma Research Foun-

ation, and the Scleroderma Family Registry and DNA Repository lead the way in research and patient advocacy, providing hope and meaningful support to those impacted. Through public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and patient-focused initiatives, these organizations are making great progress in increasing awareness and advancing scientific breakthroughs.

Despite these efforts, there is still much work to be done. Many patients experience delayed diagnoses due to a lack of awareness and limited understanding of this complex disease. Enhancing diagnostic tools, boosting research funding, and expanding access to care are crucial for improving patient outcomes.

Today, I stand to amplify the voices of scleroderma patients and their families. We must continue to support efforts that promote research, education, and compassionate care for those impacted by this disease. It is my hope that through our collective efforts, we can bring much-needed awareness and resources to the fight against scleroderma, ultimately improving the lives of those affected and bringing us closer to a cure.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MARY SELECKY

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Ms. DeBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, alongside my colleague Rep. DAN NEWHOUSE, to honor the life and legacy of Washington's former Secretary of Health, Mary Selecky. For over four decades, Mary dedicated her life and career to public health throughout Washington. She began her career as the administrator for the Northeast Tri County Health District. In 1999, she was appointed as the Secretary of Health by Governor Gary Locke and continued in that role under Governors Chris Gregoire and Jay Inslee until her retirement in 2013.

During her tenure, Mary was instrumental in reducing smoking rates and increasing childhood vaccination coverage across the state. She was known for her commitment to preventive care and for strengthening the collaboration between state and local health agencies.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mary was deeply connected to her community in Colville, Washington, where she resided for over 50 years. Her dedication to both her local community and the broader public health landscape left a lasting impact on the state. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mary Selecky's life and contributions to public health.

CELEBRATING THE 92ND BIRTH-  
DAY OF RUSSELL J. SALVATORE

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. I rise today to celebrate the 92nd birthday of a remarkable individual, Russell J. Salvatore, a beloved member of our community and Army veteran

whose impact has touched countless lives through his generosity, leadership, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Mr. Salvatore is the proud owner of the renowned Russell's Steaks, Chops, & More, as well as Salvatore's Grand Hotel in Williamsville, New York. He is widely respected not only for his success in the restaurant and hospitality industries but also for his immense philanthropy. Over the years, Mr. Salvatore has donated millions to various worthy causes, making him a leading philanthropist in the Western New York region.

Mr. Salvatore's career in the restaurant industry began at a young age, working alongside his father, Joseph. After nearly four decades in the business, he took his passion to new heights by opening Russell's Steaks, Chops, & More at the age of 75, proving that his dedication to the industry remains as strong as ever.

Throughout his career, Mr. Salvatore has made significant investments within Western New York, including funding transportation vans for veterans, contributing to the rebuilding of a Boys and Girls Club after a devastating fire, supporting Shea's Performing Arts Center, and assisting with the construction of the Niagara University Russell J. Salvatore Student Commons. His impact is also felt at the Miracle League of Grand Island's special needs baseball diamond, and he has supported countless educational and healthcare organizations across the region.

In addition to his remarkable contributions, Mr. Salvatore's commitment to giving back has been further recognized through numerous accolades, including being named Humanitarian of the Year in 2018. His foundation continues to support organizations like ECOMC, Kaleida Health, Oishei Children's Hospital, Catholic Health, and other organizations throughout Western New York.

Mr. Speaker, Russell J. Salvatore's legacy is one of profound generosity and civic responsibility. He is an integral part of our "City of Good Neighbors" and has enriched the Western New York community through years of hard work and selflessness. On this special occasion of his 92nd birthday, please join me in wishing Russell J. Salvatore the happiest of birthdays, with many more to come.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL EDEN MURRIE

#### HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor the life and service of Retired Brigadier General Eden Murrie. Throughout a distinguished twenty-nine-year career in the United States Air Force, Eden was awarded the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Aerial Achievement Medal, among many others. She also earned the title of "master navigator" after logging over 2,400 flying hours as well as serving as a flight instructor for three different aircraft. After achieving the rank of General Officer in 2009, Eden served as special assistant to the Vice Chief of Staff at the United States Air Force Headquarters in Washington, D.C., before

transitioning to the Director of Legislative Affairs on the National Security Staff for the White House. From 2011 to 2013, she served as the Director of Air Force Services and Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower, Personnel, and Services at the U.S. Air Force Headquarters. Soon after retiring from military service, Eden became the Chief Operations Officer of Operation Stand Down Tennessee (OSDTN) in 2017 and became its Chief Executive Officer in 2020. OSDTN is the only comprehensive veteran-serving agency in Middle Tennessee, connecting veterans with careers, community, and crisis services.

Under her leadership, OSDTN has served thousands of veterans by delivering food boxes, providing financial assistance, helping veterans find housing, and assisting veterans in their transition from military to civilian life. In her final full year as CEO, Operation Stand Down Tennessee served 7,991 veterans while receiving over 16,000 visits to OSDTN centers. Her dedication to serving our nation and its veterans has left an indelible mark on our Armed Forces and Middle Tennessee.

Eden is also a prominent leader in my community. She has served on the boards for The Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, Tennessee State Veterans' Homes, Centerstone Military Services, and the Davidson County Veterans Court Foundation, as well as an adviser for the Nashville YWCA Dress for Success program.

As Eden steps down from her role as CEO of Operation Stand Down Tennessee, I want to wish her the best and thank her for her decades of public and private service. I know she will tackle her next chapter with the same passion and tenacity as her other outstanding achievements.

#### HONORING BETHEL AME CHURCH OF BUFFALO AND REVEREND PAUL J. THOMAS

#### HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a foundational institution in Western New York's spiritual and civil life, the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Buffalo, NY and its dedicated pastor, Reverend Paul J. Thomas.

Founded in 1831, Bethel AME Church stands as the oldest African-American congregation in Western New York. For nearly two centuries, Bethel has been a cornerstone of strength, faith, and leadership in Buffalo, nurturing generations, advancing social justice, and offering an unwavering commitment to the community it serves. It is a place where history and hope walk hand in hand, where the spirit of unity and progress has never wavered.

Under the leadership of Reverend Paul J. Thomas, Bethel AME continues to thrive. Reverend Thomas brings a wealth of knowledge, compassion, and a vision to his ministry. A graduate of Lincoln University of Pennsylvania and Turner Theological Seminary, he combines his training with a heart for education and outreach, holding a master's degree in Special Education as well. His leadership has deepened the church's mission, strengthened

its outreach, and reaffirmed its role as a spiritual and cultural anchor in Buffalo.

As we welcome visitors from across New York State and the greater First Episcopal District, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New England, and Bermuda, to the 29th Session of the Western New York Conference, hosted by Bethel AME, we are reminded of the power of faith to bring people together and to move communities forward.

Reverend Thomas and the entire Bethel AME family represent the very best of the City of Good Neighbors. Their work uplifts lives, unites neighborhoods, and strengthens the bonds that hold our community together.

#### HONORING MIKE COLE

#### HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 21, 2025*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor someone who's spent his life making sure the rest of us stay informed—not by standing in front of a camera, but by quietly, tirelessly, and professionally working behind it for over four decades.

Even though you don't see his face on TV, Mike Cole is a cornerstone of Boston journalism and one of the most trusted names in the business. He got his start at WHDH before moving to FOX 25—eventually landing at WCVB in 2003. But the values he's carried from newsroom to newsroom haven't changed: Fairness, transparency, accountability, and truth.

For the past 28 years, Mike has been a force of nature at WCVB, producing NewsCenter 5 and the Sunday morning political program *On the Record*. It's the most-watched political talk show in New England—and for good reason. It's thoughtful, fair, and tough. And Mike is one of the main reasons why: Chasing down stories, booking guests, double-checking facts, and putting together a show that keeps viewers informed and engaged. He has an uncanny ability to know which questions will break news and get people talking. I've had the privilege of going *On the Record* many times over the years, and I can tell you that Mike is the real deal. He cares deeply about getting clear, concise, accurate information on the air. And that kind of public service is beyond invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, I also think it's important to recognize that this kind of journalism is under attack.

Here in the United States, we've seen political leaders demonize reporters just for doing their jobs. We've heard phrases like "fake news" used to discredit hard truths. We've seen threats against journalists trying to tell the public what's going on. And around the world, autocrats and strongmen are increasingly throwing reporters in jail, shutting down news outlets, and targeting those they don't like with censorship and violence.

In moments like this, we need to uplift people who are fighting for the truth. Because at the end of the day, freedom of the press is about more than just the ability of a journalist to write or say whatever they want. It's about our ability, as a society, to make decisions based on the facts—put in context, and delivered fairly and impartially. Mr. Speaker, it is