

25 local Pasco County organizations, RSVP Pasco connects volunteers to critical areas of need. Volunteers support food pantries, like Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Vincent DePaul and Shady Hills Mission Chapel. They work to ensure families in high-need areas receive essential resources. At Good Samaritan Health Clinic, RSVP volunteers assist with patient intake and front desk duties, while at BayCare, they recruit participants for the Health Buddies program to enhance senior well-being. Recently, RSVP Pasco partnered with Solo Moms to empower single mothers and with the American Cancer Society to help patients access life-saving treatments. Each partnership reflects the program's commitment to addressing diverse community challenges with tailored support. Led by Ann, the leadership team within RSVP Pasco has also been a driving force behind its success. Ambassadors have taken on vital roles in recruitment, outreach, and event planning. When the CARES Senior Center closure displaced 25 volunteers, RSVP Pasco worked diligently to connect them with new opportunities, ensuring their passion for service was not lost. Similarly, at Grace's Food Pantry, Ambassadors stepped in to address staffing shortages, ensuring continuity in service. Their proactive approach has strengthened the program's ability to adapt and grow. RSVP Pasco demonstrates the transformative power of volunteerism. From hurricane recovery to improving healthcare and food security, the program embodies resilience, compassion, and connection. This remarkable program truly exemplifies the spirit of service and is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together to make a difference.

It is clear Ann Wilkinson has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF DR. WARREN NICHOLS

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize an extraordinary leader, a dedicated public servant, and a pillar of our community—Dr. Warren Nichols, who is retiring after years of transformative leadership as President of College of the Mainland.

Since taking the helm at College of the Mainland in 2017, Dr. Nichols has done what strong leaders do, he's rolled up his sleeves, put students first, and delivered results.

A first-generation college student and former police officer from Arlington, Texas, Dr. Nichols embodies the American dream. He climbed the ladder of higher education through grit, service, and vision. From law enforcement to leadership, he's remained focused on helping others rise, too.

Under his tenure, College of the Mainland has seen historic growth—not just in enrollment, but in opportunity. He led COM to become the first college in Texas to fully implement a corequisite program, helping underprepared students complete their English and math requirements faster and more effectively.

That's results-driven education, and that's exactly what we need more of in this country.

Dr. Nichols also championed the Guided Pathways to Success initiative, ensuring students stay on track toward meaningful goals—associate degrees, workforce certificates, and transfers to four-year universities. That's the kind of strategic, student-focused thinking that sets College of the Mainland apart.

But it doesn't stop there.

Dr. Nichols successfully led not one, but two major bond referendums, totaling over \$400 million—no small feat after previous attempts had failed for years. That funding has revitalized the COM campus, resulting in state-of-the-art facilities like the STEAM and Allied Health Building, the Industrial Careers Building, and many more. These aren't just buildings—these are launch pads for future welders, nurses, engineers, and entrepreneurs.

He's also been laser-focused on workforce development—a cornerstone of economic freedom and American prosperity. By strengthening partnerships with local industry, Dr. Nichols has created pathways for students to graduate with skills that matter, jobs that pay well, and futures they can count on.

Before his time at COM, Dr. Nichols served as Vice Chancellor of Community Colleges for the Tennessee Board of Regents and President of Volunteer State Community College. Whether in Texas, Tennessee, Georgia, or beyond, his impact has always been the same—profound and lasting.

He's also given generously of his time to the Texas City community, serving on the Rotary Club and as Past Chair of the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce. It's no surprise he was honored with the Rising Star Award, because his leadership has truly been a guiding light.

Dr. Nichols' legacy at College of the Mainland will endure for generations. He has built more than buildings—he has built lives, futures, and opportunity for thousands of Texans.

On behalf of the people of Texas' 14th Congressional District and this great Nation—we say: job well done, Dr. Nichols. We wish him a well-earned retirement, and thank him for proving that with vision and values, anything is possible.

God bless Dr. Nichols, and God bless Texas.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
DR. DON DUGI

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Don Dugi, a professor of political science at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and to congratulate him on his retirement after a remarkable 50-year career dedicated to educating and empowering students.

Dr. Dugi's teaching journey began in his youth, when he helped his teachers in a small rural school in Texas. He pursued higher education at St. Mary's University, earning bachelor's and master's degrees. Fifty years ago, in 1975, he joined Transylvania University, the oldest school west of the Allegheny moun-

tains, founded in 1780. Over the following decades, Dr. Dugi became known for his commitment to high academic standards and his unwavering support for his students.

In 2003, he was recognized for this dedication and was named Kentucky Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Dr. Dugi inspired students aspiring to enter the legal profession. He conducted intensive workshops to prepare students for the Law School Admission Test and the law school application process, resulting in Transylvania students gaining admission to top law schools, including Harvard, Stanford, Duke, Columbia, and the University of Kentucky. Thanks to Dr. Dugi, every student that Transylvania recommends to law school is accepted.

Dr. Dugi has taught and mentored countless students throughout his years, many of whom have graduated and built successful careers as lawyers and judges. He led the way for students who have dedicated their lives to the rule of law and fighting for justice, including several who now serve as federal and state judges thanks to his mentorship.

Dr. Dugi's legacy is his deep commitment to student success. His contributions have left an indelible mark on countless lives, and his retirement marks the end of an era at Transylvania University.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues, and every student who has been taught by him, to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude to Dr. Don Dugi for his outstanding service to Transylvania University and the Commonwealth of Kentucky and his enduring impact on students' lives.

RECOGNIZING RON TILLEY OF
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Ron Tilley for his seventy plus years of ministry and service to East Tennessee. I've seen some pretty impressive resumes in my time, but none may be as impressive as Brother Ron's.

Sharing my love for cars, Ron owned Tilley Lane Chrysler Dodge Dealership in Lenoir City where his business became a pillar of the community. In addition to owning a beloved local business, he is also a legend in sports as he was inducted into the Lenoir City Sports Hall of Fame. He was also an original member of the Kingsman Quartet.

If you ask Ron, all of this pales in comparison to his walk with Christ. In 1947, Ron was saved at the Broadway Baptist Church in Maryville, Tennessee. He then went on to live a Christ-centered life serving as the music director for a number of churches and Christian organizations throughout East Tennessee. Since August of 2014, Ron has served as the Minister of Music at Calvary Baptist Church, where he is now retiring after seven decades of service.

I thank Ron for being a role model, friend to all, and most importantly a good steward of Christ. While he may be retiring, I have no doubt that he will continue his service to his community.

Please join me in congratulating Ron Tilley on his outstanding career and life as he begins a new chapter.

RECOGNIZING ASHLEY PORTER

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Ashley Porter has made to our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. In addition to providing countless hours of direct support to neighbors and flood victims, she helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Ms. Porter was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Ashley Porter has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING REENTRY FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENTS IN THE BUREAU OF PRISONS ACT OF 2025

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Improving Reentry for District of Columbia Residents in the Bureau of Prisons Act of 2025. This bill would require the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to place D.C. residents serving sentences for D.C. Code felonies in BOP facilities within 250 miles of D.C. Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, individuals serving sentences for D.C. Code felonies are in BOP custody.

Currently, more than 2,000 D.C. residents are serving sentences for D.C. Code felonies, and they are in BOP facilities across the United States. While Congress will not provide funding to BOP to build a new facility for these D.C. residents, there are more than enough existing BOP facilities within 250 miles of D.C. to house all these D.C. residents. Under this bill, BOP could place a D.C. resident outside 250 miles upon the request or consent of a resident, and BOP could place a D.C. resident outside 250 miles without consent in extraordinary circumstances.

This bill would help D.C. residents in BOP maintain relationships with family and support networks and reenter the community after prison.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF NOKIA BELL LABS

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nokia Bell Labs as they celebrate their 100th anniversary, marking a century of transformative innovation and scientific achievement.

Since its founding in 1925, Bell Labs has been a leader in cutting-edge research, delivering innovative solutions to some of the most complex challenges in communications and computing. The technologies pioneered within their laboratories have fundamentally shaped the modern world, enabling the networks and digital tools we rely on every day.

Following World War II, researchers at Bell Labs invented the transistor, a discovery that revolutionized electronics and launched the era of modern computing. Bell Labs also played a pivotal role in the creation of Information Theory, which remains the foundation for virtually all modern communications systems. In the 1960s, Bell Labs introduced Telstar 1, the world's first communications satellite, making live global television broadcasts possible and ushering in a new era of global connectivity.

In addition to their achievements in hardware and communications, Bell Labs was responsible for developing the C programming language and the Unix operating system, both of which laid the groundwork for the digital age and the internet as we know it today.

As part of Nokia, Bell Labs continues to serve as a beacon of scientific excellence and future-focused research. Today, their work in 6G technology promises to revolutionize how we interact with both the digital and physical worlds. Their advancements in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and other emerging technologies are poised to dramatically enhance our capabilities in sectors such as healthcare, transportation, energy, and science.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Nokia Bell Labs' accomplishments as one of our Nation's leading research laboratories, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating their 100 years of pioneering research and continued commitment to driving humanity forward.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE PENNY WOLFGANG

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of the Honorable Judge Penny Wolfgang. Judge Wolfgang has built her life on the foundations of purpose, passion, and principle, setting a standard of excellence that will continue to guide the future of the legal profession.

Judge Wolfgang's dedication to justice was evident from the very start of her career, with her first decade of service as a public defender with a deep commitment to advocating for those in need. She has served in numer-

ous roles, spanning from a public defender, Director of the Prisoners Legal Aid Assistance Project, and later serving as the President of Legal Aid of Buffalo, always using her platform to advocate for the rights of those who are often unheard. After three decades of service on the Erie County Supreme Court, Judge Wolfgang retired, leaving an indelible mark on the legal system.

Judge Wolfgang has shaped generations of law students through her role as an instructor at the University at Buffalo School of Law. She made an impact on all who stepped foot in her classroom—sharing her wisdom and experience while maintaining her steadfast commitment of upholding the law. Her dedication helped countless individuals, regardless of their background to better understand their rights and navigate the complexities of the legal system.

As a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, Judge Wolfgang's legacy extends beyond the prestigious positions she held and the countless individuals she impacted throughout her career; a recipient of numerous honors, including the Outstanding Women of the Law Award in 2011, she continues to inform and inspire through her influential work in radio and television.

Today we recognize Judge Wolfgang for her remarkable career—a testament to a life dedicated to public service. Her contributions to the Western New York community have broken barriers and continues to inspire all who had the privilege of working with her, and her legacy is certain to live on for generations.

RECOGNIZING BARBARA SPRAGUE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ms. Barbara Sprague has made to our community through her work with the Community Food Bank, leading the charge in our fight against food insecurity. Since Barbara joined the organization, her leadership, tenacity, and compassion for those in need have led the Community Food Bank to grow from supplying 1–2 million meals each year to over 5 million nutritious meals and critical supplies to fill the meal gap and basic needs for over 70,000 of our neighbors in need. She has taught the entire team to “BELIEVE that they will end hunger because they are BETTER TOGETHER!” With Barbara's continued vision and drive to end hunger, the Community Food Bank is embarking on an expansion that will not only double its impact capacity but will add a tremendous outreach opportunity for all service organizations and providers to meet our most at-risk clients right where they are with their programs and critical support as we work together to dismantle the pillars of poverty.

The RISE Empowerment Center and Food Bank targets the specific needs of residents with the collaborative power of our most effective resources. Barbara's vision, outstanding leadership, and unyielding drive to make a true difference not only make her a hero in her organization's mission, but she is also a community treasure.

It is clear that Barbara Sprague has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for her service. May we