

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Metra and extend my deepest appreciation to everyone who has contributed to its success. I look forward to continuing to work with Metra as it builds on its remarkable 40 years of safe and reliable commuter rail service in the Chicagoland area.

#### RECOGNIZING MARJORIE CURTISS

##### HON. TOM BARRETT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2025*

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly extraordinary American, Marjorie Ann Smith Curtiss, who is celebrating her 100th birthday today. Born in 1925, Marjorie has spent the past century as a proud Michigander whose life has been defined by strength, service, and resilience.

In 1943, during the Second World War, Marjorie became one of the original "Rosies," embodying the spirit of Rosie the Riveter and stepping up to support her Nation on the home front. Immediately after her high school graduation, Marjorie volunteered at the Chevrolet plant near her home in Flint, Michigan, where she worked on rehabilitating military trucks for the front lines. A few months later, Marjorie became an inspector, where she played a critical role in maintaining records on the Briggs & Stratton airplane engines being rebuilt at the facility until the operation closed in 1945.

Marjorie's legacy, however, goes far beyond the factory floor. After marrying her husband John David Curtiss, she raised four children, put herself through nursing school, and achieved a career in the field. Today, she is the proud matriarch of a growing family that includes seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. Her legacy of love, perseverance, and hard work continues to shine through them.

Mr. Speaker, Marjorie Curtiss is an exceptional woman who answered the call to support her Nation in its darkest hour. Her story, which is woven into the fabric of our Nation, is nothing short of remarkable. I urge my colleagues to join me and all of Michigan's Seventh Congressional District in wishing her a very happy 100th birthday.

#### RECOGNIZING CAROL NOBLE

##### 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. Carol Noble 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. Noble was a strong advocate for bringing in government and nonprofit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Carol Noble 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.

#### COMMEMORATING NATIONAL AUCTIONEERS WEEK

##### HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2025*

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate National Auctioneers Week, taking place this year between April 28 and May 3.

The National Auction Association, located in the Kansas Third District, is the centralized headquarters for all auctioneering businesses, and I thank them for their advocacy on this matter. Additionally, I would like to recognize Livestock Marketing Association and the National Auto Auction for their advocacy work on this.

An auction is one of the oldest methods of purchasing and selling goods and remains a prevalent practice in businesses throughout the country. And with rising prices, auctioneering remains a steady method of both purchasing and selling goods competitively. Auctions, and the auctioneers that run them, allow buyers an equal chance of receiving competitive prices for purchases and also allow the seller to receive the best possible return.

The hardworking auctioneers that spend their time coordinating with clients and holding these events deserve recognition, and so I heartily support National Auctioneers Week.

#### HONORING PASTOR VICTOR HARDY

##### HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2025*

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Pastor Victor Hardy, a beloved community leader, committed advocate, and upstanding citizen of the City of Chandler. Victor passed away on March 22, 2025, at the age of 63, after a lifetime of faith, friendship and service. Chandler—and all of Arizona—is a kinder, more just place for his presence among us.

Born and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia, Victor attended neighboring Norfolk State University where he studied music and performance. There, he met his beloved wife of 40 years, Cynthia. His lifelong devotion to serving God and his country was clear early in his life. After graduation, he served in the Virginia Army National Guard and the United States Air Force and pursued another degree in religious studies at Liberty University.

The Chandler Community was blessed nearly 26 years ago, when Victor moved his family to their new home in Arizona. He volunteered tirelessly with the school districts, the city, Chandler Tullamore Sister Cities organizations, East Valley NAACP, and many other local organizations and nonprofits. His particular focus was to uplift African American men in our community. Over a decade ago, Victor founded the Chandler Men of Action, a

profoundly impactful organization that empowers African American youth and honors the many contributions of African American men to Arizona. He became the first and only African American to hold the title of Executive Director at For Our City Chandler, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting collaboration and compassion in Chandler. In 2022, the Chandler City Council honored Victor with the MLK Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize his service to our community, which has helped to realize Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of a better, more just Nation.

Pastor Victor Hardy was ordained in 2012. Just three years later, he became the first African American solo pastor at the Congregational Church of the Valley. Victor built a welcoming and inviting space for congregants, and his congregation described him as a dedicated pastor—and as a friend and mentor. He challenged his members to deepen their connection to their community and was a vocal champion of public servants, like our teachers and law enforcement officers—he even led a First Respondents Blessing each September.

Victor's love of music steered his service as well. Coming from three generations of African Methodist Episcopal church leaders, Victor's musicality was fostered in church growing up. He founded and directed the Chandler Centennial Celebration Choir in 2012, created the Chandler High School Gospel Choir Club, and emceed the Chandler Symphony Orchestra Gala. Under his leadership, the Chandler High School Gospel Choir went on to perform at a number of high-profile shows.

Pastor Victor Hardy's dedication to the Chandler community is remarkable and deeply appreciated by the city's residents. My prayers are with his family, including Cynthia and his sons, David, Julian and Patrick. Victor will be deeply missed by his congregation and all of those committed to justice and societal change. His compassionate legacy of service will be felt for generations to come—Arizona owes him a debt of gratitude. I thank Victor, and Godspeed.

#### RECOGNIZING CAROL SMITH

##### 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 Carol Smith has made to our community through her work with New Beginnings Youth Shelter, which serves homeless kids aged 10–17 who are between foster homes, abandoned, or homeless. The whole team jumps in to take care of the kids that have no one else looking out for them. They teach kids structure, respect, understanding and so much more in a loving environment. The team really cares, and each member is deeply invested in the kids' long-term success.

It is clear Carol Smith 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 BASIL PIAZZA

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Basil Piazza, a dedicated public servant and long-time resident of Williamsville, New York whose tireless contributions to his community and his country have left a long lasting impact. Mr. Piazza's legacy spans decades of leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of the Village of Williamsville.

A native of North Buffalo, Mr. Piazza graduated from Canisius University in 1965 with a degree in English. After relocating in 1968 to the Village of Williamsville with his family, he began a successful teaching career for 36 years throughout Western New York. His commitment to education and mentorship, even while serving in local government, speaks to his selflessness and passion for helping others succeed.

Mr. Piazza has dedicated nearly three decades of public service to the Village of Williamsville, including the roles of Village Trustee, Deputy Mayor, and Mayor. His leadership has shaped the growth and development of Williamsville, as he worked tirelessly to improve his community. His dedication to enhancing the quality of life for residents, fostering community engagement, and promoting the arts and culture within the village has left an indelible mark on the area.

Mr. Piazza's legacy extends beyond his years of service as a public servant and educator. He has made profound contributions to the United States by serving in the Army Reserve for 26 years while remaining devoted to his family as a husband and father—later becoming a loving grandparent, and great-grandparent. His legacy stands as a foundation for the community values he worked to uphold throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, today we recognize Mr. Basil Piazza for his steadfast commitment to public service and his outstanding contributions to the Village of Williamsville. His dedication continues to inspire all who had the privilege of working with him, and his legacy is certain to live on for generations.

HONORING FORMER WOODRIDGE  
VILLAGE MAYOR WILLIAM F.  
MURPHY**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2025*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary life and leadership of the late Mayor William F. Murphy, a public servant who dedicated his career to the betterment of Woodridge and its neighboring communities.

Mayor Murphy's 41 years of leadership, as Village Trustee from 1972 until 1981 and then Mayor from 1981 until 2013, was paramount to the growth of Woodridge into the thriving village we see today. His negotiations brought water from Lake Michigan to DuPage County and sustained Argonne National Laboratory's research capabilities. He served in countless organizations, including as president of the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference and the Illinois Municipal League, demonstrating Murphy's aspiration to use local government to uplift the community.

Mayor Murphy remained deeply thoughtful and responsive to his residents' challenges. He consistently listened to their feedback and worked towards addressing their needs. Mayor Murphy also championed the ProLogis Fund, providing college scholarships and non-profit grants to empower the next generation of leaders and advocates. In addition, Mayor Murphy had a distinguished career as an educator, principal and Assistant Superintendent for 29 years for Woodridge School District 68, even having a local school named for him upon his retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have represented such a dedicated leader who governed with the utmost humility. I ask you all to join me in honoring his legacy through the Woodridge Village Hall renaming. May the "William F. Murphy Village Hall" serve as a lasting reminder of his service to our community.

## RECOGNIZING ANDREA READ

**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 Andrea Read has made to our community as a volunteer for Brooksville Main Street. Andrea

embodies the true spirit of a Local Hero through her unwavering dedication to historic preservation, volunteerism, and community service. Her passion for preserving the cultural and architectural heritage of our town has left an indelible mark, ensuring that future generations can appreciate and learn from the past. For many years, Andrea has been a champion of historic preservation, tirelessly advocating for the restoration and conservation of our town's most treasured landmarks. She has played a crucial role in securing grants and funding for preservation projects, working closely with local government and historical societies to ensure that our community's history remains intact. Her leadership in restoration initiatives has not only beautified our town but has also increased public awareness about the importance of preserving our collective heritage. Through her efforts, several historic buildings that were once in danger of demolition have been revitalized, contributing to the town's unique character and charm. Beyond her work in historic preservation, Andrea is a dedicated volunteer who has given countless hours to various community projects. She has been instrumental in organizing events that celebrate our local heritage, including historical walking tours, educational workshops, and town-wide clean-up efforts. Her ability to bring people together and inspire civic pride has strengthened the community's appreciation for its past while fostering a sense of unity and belonging among its residents. Andrea's service extends beyond preservation efforts. Andrea consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to the well-being of others. Her selflessness and drive to create positive change make her a role model for all who know her. Her leadership and generosity have earned her the admiration of both peers and community members. Andrea is not one to seek recognition for her contributions; she simply believes in making a difference. Her work has inspired many to take an active role in preserving the town's history and engaging in volunteerism, creating a ripple effect that will be felt for years to come. Andrea Read's tireless efforts in historic preservation, her unwavering dedication to volunteerism, and her commitment to community service make her a truly deserving recipient of the Local Hero Award. Her passion for preserving the past, coupled with her devotion to improving the present, has left a lasting legacy in Brooksville.

It is clear Andrea Read 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.