

In December 2008, Mr. Michael was appointed to the position of Special Assistant for Administrative Matters in DON OGC. In this role, he directly supports the General Counsel of the Navy (GC), a Presidentially Appointed, Senate-confirmed official, and the Principal Deputy General Counsel (PDGC). He is the recognized subject matter expert on all DON and Department of Defense administrative matters and functional areas to include oversight of correspondence and the electronic records programs, personnel and physical security, and protocol. Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Michael consistently exceeded expectations and provided unmatched support to nine GC's, seven PDGCs, and various other senior executives within the DON and OGC. For his contributions, he received two DON Meritorious Civilian Service awards.

For these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Vernon L. Michael as he retires from Federal service.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES A.
ROGERS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Charles A. "Charlie" Rogers has made through his work with Habitat Tampa Bay Gulfside. Charlie Rogers has been on Habitat's Board of Directors since July 2022. A lifelong advocate for education and health, Charlie has brought that experience and passion to Habitat as we continue to find solutions for affordable homeownership in Pinellas and West Pasco Counties. Charlie is a key member of Habitat's work to build more affordable homeownership opportunities in West Pasco and Hernando Counties. He has assisted in organizing special build days with local elected officials and continues to make vital community connections to grow the affiliate's presence. Charlie has continued to build relationships with local government members and stresses the need for private and public partnerships. As Habitat's footprint continues to grow throughout its service area, Charlie Rogers will keep pushing the mission and the vision that everyone deserves a safe place to call home.

It is clear Charles A. "Charlie" Rogers has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT PASTOR ISIAH MOORE, JR.

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Isiah Moore, Jr., of Celina, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award.

Pastor Moore has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community and country.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Pastor Moore attended Booker T. Washington High School and joined the United States Navy after graduation. He was honorably discharged in June 1971 with the rank of Seaman Apprentice. Pastor Moore earned his bachelor's degree in 1976 from Bishop College in Dallas and attended Perkins Theological and Chriswell Ministry College. He began his career as a campus police officer at Bishop College and assistant manager at Winn Dixie before becoming a firefighter for the City of Dallas. Later, Pastor Moore served as the Senior Pastor of Samaria Baptist Church in Van Alstyne and St. Philip Baptist Church in Celina.

For nearly four decades, Pastor Moore has worked as a firefighter in North Texas and volunteer chaplain for the Celina Police Department. He is a board member of the Celina Police and Firefighters Benevolent Association, the Collin Baptist Association Board, the McKinney Area Ministerial Alliance Board, and many more. Additionally, Pastor Moore has worked with the Young Republicans in McKinney and campaigned for local judges in Collin County. For his outstanding contributions, Pastor Moore has received the 2021 Life Connected Award from the City of Celina and was recognized by his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi, for 50 years of service. I am pleased to recognize Pastor Moore today for his exceptional leadership and longtime dedication to helping our community succeed.

It is an honor to bestow Pastor Moore with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

HONORING MS. LILA MAE STAR

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loving mother, devoted grandmother, dedicated great grandmother, a culinary maestro, iconic entrepreneur and friend of longstanding, Ms. Lila Mae Star. Sadly, Ms. Star transitioned from labor to reward on April 2, 2025. A "Royal Celebration of Life", reflecting her remarkable 93 years and 11 months, was held on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at the Saint James AME Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The life of Lila Mae Star had its genesis with her birth to the union of the late Mr. Freeman "Bear" Goodwin and Mrs. Mary Luttrell Jones in Ellerslie, Georgia on April 17, 1931. She received her education at Longstreet School in Harris County.

Ms. Star's life was driven by her faith as she gave herself to Christ at an early age never ceasing her connection to the Church and her God. For more than half a century, she fellowshiped with the saints at Nazareth Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, serving in a variety of capacities to include the Nazareth Missionary Society, Nazareth Early Morning Choir, the Benevolent Group President, and the Senior Usher Board.

The impetus for her life's work began when she was only 12 years old and working at the Seminole Diner and Coffee Depot for Mr.

Hatterfield. Her experience there kindled her dream of one day owning her own restaurant. That dream became a reality on August 12, 1963, when she opened the Royal Café. For almost six decades she and family members and other dedicated staff maintained a "destination" café, known for good homestyle cooking and frequented by a clientele, ranging from laborers, domestics, and factory workers to doctors, lawyers, judges and corporate executives. Ms. Star loved her customers and treated them all with respect, but from time to time she was known to have a "sharp tongue" for anyone she believed to be disrespectful to any of her customers. She was also known to have "favorites" such as her doctor, the late Dr. M. Delmar Edwards, who upon his arrival would be treated to his choice of fare—whether on the menu or not. The Royal Café was always the place where people who wanted good food could find it. Mrs. Lila Mae Star was an entrepreneur extraordinaire. Moreover, it was so appropriate that her "Royal Celebration of Life" was held at the historic St. James AME Church, which is located next door to the Royal Café, where she spent so many years of her remarkable life.

Not only did Ms. Star make a difference with the Royal Café, she also made a difference in the community by her involvement in civic and social clubs. It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." She paid her rent, and she paid it well. She was a proud member of the Jolly Matrons Social Club which has as its mission, sisterhood, service and fellowship. She was honored by The United Negro College Fund for her philanthropy. She received accolades from Mayors, Legislators, Members of Congress and the Columbus Ledger Enquirer newspaper. And she was loved by the community at large for her life of service.

On a personal note, Ms. Star and her family have been dear friends for many years. I was the family lawyer and was proud to have earned her confidence. She supported my career in public service and never told me what she thought I wanted to hear but always told me what she thought I needed to hear. I will be forever grateful for the fidelity of her friendship and support.

Ms. Lila Mae Star was a great woman and accomplished many things in her life, but none would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her family, to include her late children Sarah Porter and Leonard Goodwin; her daughter Carolyn Ross; her late granddaughter, Kimberly Porter; her great grandchildren and other extended family. The world is better because Ms. Star touched our lives.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian, and I, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, salute and honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lila Mae Star for her commitment to serving humankind through the power of love, hospitality and food. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Ms. Star's family and all those who mourn her loss during this difficult time of bereavement. I pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

RECOGNIZING AVAYA BARNES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avaya Barnes for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Avaya has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Avaya, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Avaya's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Avaya Barnes on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING CHERYL DILLOW

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Cheryl Dillow has made through her work with the CARES Senior Clinic. Cheryl is the check out clerk at the clinic. Speedy in her typing, proficient with patient checkout and efficient at scheduling imaging and Dermatology referrals. Cheryl is a vital part of the team. She is always available to assist the patients and coworkers whenever needed. The clinic would not run smoothly without her diligent efforts.

It is clear Cheryl Dillow 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.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT SEAN MICHAEL TERRY

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Sean Michael Terry of Pilot Point, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Sean has dedicated himself to faithfully serving our community.

A native of Gunter, Sean earned his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University and began his career as a claims adjuster for State Farm Insurance and equipment salesman. For over 25 years, he has distinguished himself through public service as a volunteer firefighter, councilmember, and Mayor of the City of Celina. Sean has also served as President of the North Texas Mayors Association and board member of the Celina Rodeo Foundation Board. In addition, he has been the Vice President of Entitlements for Centurion Amer-

ican Development Group since 2013. Under his leadership as Celina's mayor, the city experienced remarkable economic growth and investments. Sean also led the effort to connect all Celina residents to high-speed internet, which led to Celina's recognition as the first Gigabit City in Texas.

For his outstanding contributions and service, Sean has earned numerous accolades, including the Outstanding Leader Award from the City of Celina, the Community Builder Award, and the Celina Varsity Cheer Parent of the Year Award. He has also been recognized by the Celina Fire Department and received a proclamation from the Collin County Commissioners Court for the State of Texas. Sean's leadership and community advocacy have made a profound impact on the City of Celina and the North Texas region. I am pleased to recognize him today for his unwavering dedication to public service, and I wish him continued success.

It is an honor to bestow Sean with the Patriot Award for his exceptional service to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize April as Distracted Driving Awareness Month, as part of ongoing efforts to educate our communities about the dangers of inattentive driving and to promote safer streets.

On average, nine people a day are killed in a distracted driving crash. Texting and cell phone use while driving is the most common type of unfocused driving; however, any action that takes a drivers' attention away from the road is distracted driving and is extremely dangerous.

Texting while driving is especially prevalent among younger drivers, with 39 percent of high school students reporting texting or emailing while driving during the past month, according to a 2019 CDC study. Even though 48 states have banned texting and driving, including Florida, drivers engage in this behavior anyway.

That is why I am proud to uplift leaders in my district who are taking action this month to educate Floridian students and families about the importance of attentive driving. The Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter at Hollywood Hills High School and the Florida Teen Safe Driver Coalition's April Safety Awareness Campaign truly shows the power of community-based advocacy.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have focused on road safety, especially for our teens. So, in recognition of Distracted Driving Awareness Month, I will take the following pledge from the National Safety Council and encourage others to do the same:

"For my friends, my family, and anyone else who may have fond feelings toward me, I pledge not to drive distracted or recklessly. For every person I may never meet, but share the road with, I pledge to give driving the 100 percent attention it deserves."

APPRECIATING WILLIAM BERRY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on April 12th, South Carolina lost a son. I am grateful for William Berry's service to the country and state and my thoughts and prayers go to his family and friends.

I include in the RECORD, his loving obituary, which has been published by the Folk Funeral Home:

A memorial service for William Grady "Bill" Berry, 69, will be held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 2:00 pm at Folk Funeral Home in Williston. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. The memorial service will be officiated by Dr. Thomas Terry and Dr. William A. Sandifer. Honorary pallbearers will be Ricky Black; Dodd Buie, III; Robert Lowman, Jr.; and Phillip B. Ness. A private interment will be held at a later date at the Blackville Cemetery.

Bill Berry passed away at MUSC, Charleston, with his sister and niece by his side. He was a resident of Barnwell, SC. Born in Augusta, GA, he was the son of the late Anita Johnson Berry and James T. "Pete" Berry of Blackville. Bill graduated from Jefferson Davis Academy, Presbyterian College, and the University of South Carolina School of Law. He attended Presbyterian (PC) on an academic and athletic scholarship. He was an Eagle Scout. At Jefferson Davis Academy, he was chosen as the male student to enter the JDA Senior Class Hall of Fame in 1974. In his senior year at PC, he was selected as captain of the football team. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and a member of the track team.

Bill Berry earned a Juris Doctor (JD) at the University of South Carolina School of Law. After being admitted to the South Carolina Bar, he started the Public Defender Office for Bamberg and Barnwell Counties and served as Chief Public Defender and Guardian Ad Litem for abused and neglected children.

He was accepted into the United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps). As an Army Captain, he served in Panama prior to Operation Just Cause. After his Army service, Bill opened a law practice in Myrtle Beach, SC. Bill loved sports throughout his life, especially football. He was a loyal Gamecock fan.

Surviving are his sister Kathy Berry Orr (Tom Gantt) and his niece Kathryn Liana (Orr) Gantt.

RECOGNIZING MICHAEL J. MABIN, JR.—50 YEARS OF LIFE, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable leader, dedicated family man, and proud son of Bucks County—Mr. Michael J. Mabin, Jr., President and CEO of PennFab, Inc., headquartered in Morrisville and Martelli Companies, headquartered in Ivyland.

Mike Mabin is more than a successful businessman—he is a builder of community, a job