

Cindy Gandy Mahon has made to our community as a volunteer with Brooksville Main Street (BMS). Cindy has demonstrated an exceptional level of commitment, enthusiasm, and passion for the revitalization and growth of downtown Brooksville. Her tireless dedication to BMS's mission and objectives has made a lasting impact, and her unwavering support has been instrumental in the success of numerous projects and events. Cindy has been an invaluable volunteer, consistently contributing countless hours to the betterment of Brooksville. She has been actively involved in multiple committees such as Beautify Brooksville, Promotions, Design as well as Beautify Brooksville, Tangerine Festival, the City's Founder's Week and Christmas on Main, bringing her energy, expertise, and creativity to every initiative. Whether planning events, setting up for activities, assisting with vendor coordination, or welcoming guests with a warm smile, Cindy is always at the forefront, ensuring that every detail is executed flawlessly. One of Cindy's most significant contributions has been her work in supporting Brooksville Main Street's special events, including Beautify Brooksville. Her hands-on involvement in coordinating logistics and managing on-site operations has been crucial in making this event successful. She dedicates long hours before, during, and after this and other events, ensuring everything runs smoothly and all volunteers and attendees have a positive experience. Cindy's leadership and problem-solving skills shine in high-pressure situations, making her a trusted and reliable member of the team. Beyond event coordination, Cindy has also played a key role in furthering the goals of BMS by assisting with community engagement initiatives. She actively promotes Brooksville's historic charm and economic growth by working with local businesses, encouraging participation, and fostering a sense of unity among merchants and residents. Her efforts to support small businesses align perfectly with BMS's mission to strengthen the local economy while preserving the character of our town. Cindy's volunteerism goes above and beyond expectations. She does not hesitate to take an extra responsibility, often stepping up when additional help is needed. Whether it is arriving early to set up for an event, staying late to clean up, or brainstorming creative ideas to enhance the visitor experience, Cindy's selfless dedication is truly inspiring. She brings positivity, teamwork, and a solutions-oriented approach to every task setting an exemplary standard for other volunteers. Over the past year alone, Cindy has devoted over 100 volunteer hours to BMS, significantly impacting our programs and outreach efforts. Her willingness to invest her time and talents into the organization speaks volumes about her love for Brooksville and her desire to see it thrive. She embodies the spirit of volunteerism, demonstrating a deep sense of responsibility and pride in her work. Her dedication, hard work, and commitment to BMS have made an undeniable difference in our community, and we are deeply grateful for her service.

It is clear Cindy Gandy Mahon 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.

HONORING OLIVIA BATES

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Olivia Bates, for her work as an intern serving in my Hendersonville office. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her hard work and recognize the meaningful contributions she has made to the office this spring.

Olivia is originally from New York but now calls Henderson County, North Carolina home. She graduated from Western Carolina University where she earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Olivia was chosen from a competitive pool of applicants and exceeded every expectation with her positive attitude and impressive work ethic.

It was a pleasure to work with Olivia, and I am so proud to have such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Olivia exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Olivia on the successful completion of her internship and thank her on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL PATRIOT AWARD RECIPIENT SHERIFF LANE AKIN

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Lane Akin of Decatur, Texas, and present him with the Congressional Patriot Award. Lane has dedicated himself to faithfully serving and protecting our community.

A native of Greenville, Texas, Lane earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from East Texas A&M University. He began his lengthy law enforcement career in 1974 as a Department of Public Safety officer at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. He worked his way up the ranks to become a Highway Patrol trooper, Narcotics Service Sergeant, Texas Ranger, and Texas Ranger supervisor. After retiring from Texas DPS, Lane served as the Office Enforcement Captain for the Wise County Sheriffs office and was elected Wise County Sheriff in 2016. In December 2024, he retired after five decades of distinguished service as a law enforcement officer.

In addition to his law enforcement career, Lane is heavily involved in community service initiatives to benefit North Texans. He serves as the President of the NCT 911 Board and the Chairman of the Wise County's Santa's Deputies to deliver toys and food to families in need during the holidays. Moreover, Lane is an accomplished author, and in 2024, he published his first book, *The Point: Dawn of the Texas Meth War*, which details the history of the drug epidemic and has been highly rated by readers. He will be publishing his second book in Fall of 2025 titled *Texas Ranger, Wise*

County. For his outstanding service as a Texas Ranger, Lane has been recognized as Officer of the Year twice by the Wise, Jack, and Montague County Criminal Justice Association. I am proud to recognize Lane today for a lifetime of public service to the North Texas community, and I look forward to his future endeavors and publications.

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

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER ARO CAVILLO

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexander Aro Cavillo for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alexander has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Alexander, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alexander'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 Alexander Aro Cavillo on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE LIFE JUDITH ANN ALGEO

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a remarkable constituent from my district, Judith Ann Algeo, J.D., M.A., who passed away on January 1, 2025. Judith was not only a distinguished professional but also a civil servant, trailblazer and beloved member of our community who lived a life full of compassion, service, and helping those in need.

Born April 19, 1953, to Rita and Hugh Algeo, Judith attended Good Shepherd Parish School and West Catholic High School for Girls. She went on to earn her B.A. in Criminal Justice and Sociology, as well as her M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from La Salle College (now University). She worked at Bell Telephone to pay for her schooling, which is a true testament to her determination and work ethic she had starting from a young age. Judith later earned her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law.

Throughout her lifetime, Judith worked across a wide range of careers. She began her professional journey as a childcare worker, which introduced her to the challenges faced by vulnerable families. This sparked a lifelong interest in advocacy which led her to then work as a child and family therapist, massage therapist and a public official before finding

her true calling as a family law litigator. While these roles may seem like large leaps, they all share one core theme—Judith's deep commitment to serving others. Each Career reflected her passion for advocacy, care and justice for those in need.

As a Family Law Litigator, Judith frequently took on Pro Bono cases. To Judith, they were not just a case but instead someone who could continue to come back to ask for help or to share their life stories. She advocated for women who were in protection from abuse and worked many judicial bypass cases. Judith served on the board of the National Network of Runaway & Homeless Youth Services and chaired the Interagency Youth Coalition of Bucks County. She was a founding member of Bucks County AIDS Network and a board member of Legal Aid of Southeastern PA. She spent time serving the Bucks County Bar Association as President and as a chair for many of the committees. She even contributed to the startup of the Bucks County Bar Foundation. She also led the parent lawyers' group which ran out of the Juvenile Dependency Court. Through this group she served hundreds of children as a guardian ad litem to offer support for those who could not advocate for themselves.

In addition to her professional work, Judith was also a pioneer in our community. She became one of the first two female volunteer firefighters in Warwick Township. This showcases her steadfast dedication to service and her unwavering courage. Additionally, Judith spent five years as a Public Official acting on the Zoning Hearing Board. In 1999 she was elected to the Board of Supervisors of Warwick Township and in 2004 she served as its chairperson for over 20 years. She also served as a Board Member at Hatboro Federal Savings.

Having had a life full of achievements, it is no surprise that Judith had received a number of recognitions throughout her career. She was chosen as the Pennsylvania Bar Association Pro Bono Service Award winner twice and was honored with the Arthur B. Walsh Jr. Award for Pro Bono Services.

Despite her busy schedule, Judith always made time for her family. She cherished the moments she spent with her husband Frank, daughter Shannon and her three grandchildren. Even on the busiest days, she always cooked breakfast for Shannon and her friends every day before school. She was an avid reader and a talented at word games such as scrabble and crossword puzzles. She enjoyed playing volleyball and climbing mountains.

Although our community mourns Judith's passing, we celebrate the legacy of service and dedication that she forged in her life. She will be greatly missed by us all.

HONORING PETER PEARSON

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Peter Pearson, a 57-year resident of New Jersey's 7th Congressional District, who recently passed away at the age of 83. Residing in the town of Andover, he was elected member of the Andover Regional

Board of Education from 1984 to 1996 and later as an Andover Borough Councilman from 2002 to 2022. Additionally, Mr. Pearson served as comptroller for multiple small businesses and as the School Business Administrator for several of the surrounding school districts for over 25 years. Mr. Pearson was always ready to help with anything that would better his community and will be remembered for his kind personality and dedication to serving those around him. I am honored to be able to recognize such a dedicated and thoughtful resident of my district.

RECOGNIZING ABDULLAHI ALI

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Abdullahi Ali for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Abdullahi has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Abdullahi, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Abdullahi'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 Abdullahi Ali on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL FLORES

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 Daniel Flores has made to our community through his 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 who 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 Daniel Flores 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. CHIQUITA MICHELE GREENE

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the extraordinary life

and legacy of Ms. Chiquita Michele Greene—a devoted educator, trailblazer, and servant leader from Southwest Georgia. Her unwavering commitment to her students and the greater community has profoundly touched countless lives across Georgia and the Nation. Sadly, Ms. Greene transitioned from labor to reward on April 6, 2025. A celebration of her life was held on Monday, April 14, 2025, at Unity Baptist Church in Sylvester, Georgia.

Ms. Greene was born from the union of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. and Earnestine Greene. Raised in Sylvester, Georgia, Ms. Greene embodied academic excellence, purpose, and pride in her heritage from an early age. A 1995 graduate of Worth County High School, she made history as the first African American member of the school's dance team—an early indicator of the pioneering spirit that would define her life's work.

After high school, Ms. Greene attended Albany State University (ASU), earning her bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education and later pursued advanced degrees in education at Wheelock College, Walden University, Georgia Southern University, and Northcentral University. She was a lifelong learner who transformed her knowledge into service, becoming a beacon of empowerment for students and colleagues alike.

As a teacher in the Dougherty County School System (DCSS), she poured her passion into every classroom she entered—most notably at Albany Early College and Westover High School, where she was named the 2018–2019 Teacher of the Year and a finalist for the district-wide honor. Over her career, she served with distinction in multiple Georgia school districts, including Savannah-Chatham and Glynn counties, holding leadership positions such as English Department Chair, Instructional Coach, Graduation Coach, and more. She also advised student teams, including the Black History Quiz Bowl, Delta GEMS, and EMBODI, helping to cultivate a sense of school pride, heritage, and academic excellence among the students at the institutions she supported.

Ms. Greene's service extended well beyond the school walls where she worked. She was a fierce advocate for her community and a transformational leader within numerous civic and social organizations. She served as President of the Albany, Georgia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where under her leadership, the chapter earned national Red Ribbon recognition. She championed historical preservation, helping to secure a mayoral proclamation honoring Delta Sigma Theta cofounder, Osceola Macarthy Adams, and initiated a petition for a historical marker in her name. She also served as co-advisor to the Delta Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. at her beloved alma mater, Albany State University.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth." Ms. Chiquita Michele Greene paid her rent and continued going the extra mile to give her time and efforts to benefit others. Ms. Greene held leadership roles in the National Council of Negro Women, the ASU Alumni Association, Ma Flora's Helping Hands, the Marching Rams Show Band National Alumni Association, the Worth County NAACP, and several other civic, educational, and fraternal organizations. She was a mentor to many and a pillar of strength, especially in spaces dedicated