

while another lost her rental property, the team prioritized the welfare of the community, working tirelessly to ensure safety and stability for all. Post-storm, the team was responsible for helping shelter residents whose homes were no longer safe, find appropriate alternatives for housing. Their dedication shone through in rapid response efforts. In the days immediately following Hurricane Helene, 49 residents received critical assessments and essential resources. After Hurricane Milton, they worked with 225 displaced individuals who remained in shelters, demonstrating their unparalleled ability to adapt and respond under pressure. The team leveraged the Human Services Needs app to streamline disaster case management, supporting 1,351 residents. Their follow-up system, in partnership with other agencies, ensured personalized service for every individual. This innovative approach epitomized their ability to harness technology and partnerships for meaningful impact. Beyond immediate relief, the team worked with individuals and families who would require long-term recovery efforts. For approximately 150 permanently displaced residents, they implemented a housing eligibility process, with the intent of ensuring fair and transparent allocation of resources. By securing placements at facilities like Pasco Hope, the team supported individuals and families along a pathway to rebuild their lives. Between September 28 and October 18, 2024, the team managed an overwhelming volume of calls—1,194 through their direct line and another 1,214 through work phones. Yet every call was met with care, professionalism, and actionable solutions, reflecting the team's deep commitment to being a lifeline for the community. The Pasco County Human Services Team exemplifies what it means to serve with excellence, compassion, and innovation. Their remarkable achievements during Hurricanes Helene and Milton, coupled with their dedication to long-term recovery and cutting-edge approaches to disaster management, have left an indelible mark on Pasco County.

It is clear Fernando Serrano has made a profoundly positive impact on our community this his work as part of the Pasco County Human Services Team, and I am grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

HONORING MRS. LAURA BOYD FOR
HER DEDICATED SERVICE

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Laura Boyd, a dedicated public servant, on her retirement from Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (BACH). Laura was born in Sumner County, Tennessee and raised in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. In high school, Laura's softball team won the state championship, giving her the opportunity to attend Cumberland University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Laura first came to Fort Campbell in 1991 as a teachers' assistant and, shortly after joining the school system, took on the Public Re-

lations role for the Assistant Superintendent until the summer of 2003. In August of 2003, Laura accepted the Public Affairs role at BACH. For over two decades, Laura has served in this role and has been an invaluable member of the Fort Campbell and Clarksville communities. In her role, Laura recreated the responsibilities for a position that had been vacant for over two years. In addition, Laura took on more challenges and opportunities for the department, including managing protocol responsibilities, community outreach, patient advocacy, patient and family-centered care, customer service, and many others.

In my former position as a State Senator and currently representing Fort Campbell in Congress. Laura has always been vigilant to inform my office of the most up-to-date information and advocate for BACH's needs. In addition to these positions, I had the honor of working with Laura when I served as the Chief of the BACH Emergency Center. It was inspiring to watch firsthand how she treated everyone who stepped into the hospital, from the Commanding General to a sick individual coming in for care, with dignity and respect. More than just a job title, Laura has been an institution at BACH and will be sorely missed.

In retirement, Laura plans to spend time with her husband, Bill, whom she will celebrate her 36th wedding anniversary with this fall, their son, Aaron, his wife Jordan, granddaughter Charlotte, and her daughter Hope. In addition, Laura plans to serve her church and community as well.

As Laura steps away from her position after many years of dedication, it is my great pleasure to honor her. We owe Laura our deepest thanks and respect. Her leadership and unwavering commitment to the families who rely on Blanchfield has impacted the lives of not only our servicemen and women, but everyone who is connected to our Fort Campbell community.

We wish Laura and her family the best in her retirement as she continues to serve her family, community, and church.

RECOGNIZING FRANK CASSARA

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Frank Cassara has made to our community through his volunteerism at A New Generation. Frank has dutifully served A New Generation for five years as a Board member. He tirelessly champions the cause of A New Generation in the community and within his professional circles. From volunteering at events, helping to oversee the bookkeeping and finances to fundraising, Frank does not stop. Frank's commitment to promoting the many services offered by the pregnancy center and speaking so highly of the services provided to those seeking pregnancy and relationship related decisions, is truly admirable. Not a week goes by without the center feeling the positive impact of Frank's care and diligence to embracing and promoting everything the organization does. Without a doubt, Frank is acutely tuned to the needs of every aspect of the organization. He helps guide and problem solve.

He always follows through, and his cheery and pleasant disposition makes him, not just a pleasure to be around, but a great public face for the organization. Individuals, like Frank Cassara, are a rare breed.

It is clear Frank Cassara 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 MCKEE FOODS, A
WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of women entrepreneurs and to recognize the impact of women-owned businesses in the Third District of Tennessee and our communities nationwide.

Like many communities across the United States, East Tennessee is home to many women- and family-owned businesses, critical local employers supporting generations of employees, and local charitable efforts, including our schools and youth sports teams.

Women-owned businesses are important drivers of our local economy, employing millions of Americans nationwide and accounting for trillions of dollars in revenue annually. Women-owned businesses also include businesses of all sizes and industries, including in the healthcare, professional services, retail, real estate, and construction industries.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that one such business—McKee Foods Corporation—is located in my district in Collegedale, Tennessee. McKee Foods, better known as the makers of Little Debbie Snack Cakes, was founded by O.D. and Ruth McKee in Tennessee nearly 100 years ago and today is a fourth-generation family business employing thousands of employees nationwide.

In March, during Women's History Month, I had the pleasure of meeting with Debbie McKee-Fowler, Chairman of the Board for McKee Foods, and representatives from several women-owned and family businesses here in Washington. These women-owned businesses were on Capitol Hill as part of an event with Family Enterprise USA and members of the Congressional Family Business Caucus to share the stories of their businesses and educate Congress on challenges in starting and growing their businesses, including how government policies like the Death Tax prevent business owners from passing down their legacy to the next generation.

As Congress continues its important work of advancing policies that grow our economy, unleash American innovation, and increase opportunity, it is vital that we continue to listen to and support these women-owned businesses, including through legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise in support and celebration of these and other women-owned businesses.

RECOGNIZING FELICIA JONES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Felicia Jones 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. Led by Felicia, the whole team jumps in to take care of the kids that have no one else. They teach the kids structure, respect, understanding and so much more in a loving environment. The team seems to really care and to really be invested with the kids. It takes a special breed of people who can handle working with this population and carry on loving every single kid that comes through in the exact way he or she needs to be loved.

It is clear Felicia Jones 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 THE LEGACY OF
CHRISTIAN GBARANEN BIRABIL**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Christian Gbaranen Birabil, a pillar of our Dallas-Fort Worth community. Born on March 22, 1955, in the Gokana town of Barako, Rivers State, Nigeria, Christian's life exemplified the very essence of the American dream.

Christian's lifelong passion for knowledge and discovery guided him from his boyhood dreams in Nigeria to becoming a pioneering Black neuroscientist at the UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. His work advanced biomedical research, leaving a lasting impact that continues to resonate within the scientific community. Through his professional accomplishments, Christian broke barriers and paved the way for future generations of scientists.

Beyond his scientific work, Christian was deeply involved in civic engagement and community activism. He served diligently as a valued staffer in my office, demonstrating exceptional service, integrity, and compassion. I remain grateful for his wisdom, loyalty, and the positivity he brought to our team.

Christian's family remember him as someone who lived life to the fullest, enriching those around him with humor, wisdom, and curiosity. Whether pursuing his career, playing tennis, cooking, or tending to his garden, Christian inspired others to embrace life.

A devoted family man, Christian's legacy of love and resilience endures through his daughter, Hon. Lorraine Burata Birabil, his son-in-law Joseph Amyson, and his grandchildren, Natalia Iyabo Kilsu and Nathaniel Kiele Olawale Birabil-Amusan. He also leaves behind siblings Mary, Barine, Nduki, and Bariep, as well as countless friends who became family. Christian was preceded in death

by his parents, Nathaniel and Elinah, and his brother, Mene Birabil.

As we honor Christian's memory, let us all strive to embody the values he held close and continue his legacy by uplifting and enriching our communities. Christian's life should serve as an inspiration to us all who want to leave our communities a better place than we found them. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING ERIC VEROSIC

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Eric Verosic 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, he helped coordinate the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals and donated services to help those who needed help. A truly selfless leader, Mr. Verosic was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear Eric Verosic 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 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the upcoming 100th anniversary of a beloved institution, the Harlem Globetrotters. Their centennial will be in 2026 and will mark 100 years of entertaining and inspiring audiences around the world.

The Harlem Globetrotters were founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1926 by Abe Saperstein at Wendell Phillips High School. They began as the "Savoy Big Five" and have since become a global phenomenon, known for their amazing athletic skills, their comedic routines and the goodwill they spread. Their unique blend of athleticism and showmanship has captivated fans of all ages, and their impact extends far beyond the basketball court.

The Globetrotters have a deep and meaningful connection to the 1st Congressional District of Illinois. On May 6, 2025, a street will be named after the Globetrotters near Phillips High School in the 1st District. Their roots in Chicago's vibrant Bronzeville community have created a legacy that resonates within our community.

As we approach this milestone, it is fitting that we recognize the Globetrotters' contributions to the world of sports and entertainment. They have brought joy to millions, transcended cultural barriers and served as ambassadors of goodwill for the United States.

Among the many talented players who have donned the Globetrotters' uniform, some have

become legends. These include Lynette Woodard, a trailblazing Olympian and the first woman to play for a men's professional basketball team; Wilt Chamberlain, a basketball icon known for his dominant presence; Meadowlark Lemon, an unforgettable showman and one of the most beloved Globetrotters of all time; Marques Haynes, a legendary dribbler whose skills were unmatched; Reece "Goose" Tatum, known as the Clown Prince of basketball; and Curly Neal, famous for his incredible dribbling skills. These players, among many others, have contributed to the Globetrotter's rich history and enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of the Harlem Globetrotters.

RECOGNIZING ELLEN TANTILLO

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Ellen Tantillo has made through her work with Metropolitan Ministries. Ellen has been a dedicated volunteer at Metropolitan Ministries since 2016. Monday and Friday mornings at the Metro Welcome Center are lively and welcoming, thanks to this remarkable woman. She greets both new and returning volunteers with enthusiasm, ensuring newcomers feel comfortable and understand the importance of their roles. Her humor, empathy, and dedication ensure smooth operations across all areas, from kitchen prep to client shopping in the metro market. She welcomes everyone—volunteers, clients, residents, and community members—with warmth, compassion, and genuine joy in service. Ellen is always ready to tackle any task that needs attention. Metropolitan Ministries relies heavily on her to keep Volunteer Services running smoothly, not just during the holidays but all year round. She embodies the four key values of Metro's culture, including: Character, Chemistry, Competency, and Calling.

It is clear Ellen Tantillo 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 ABE FRIEDMAN FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF
WASHINGTON'S FIRST DISTRICT**HON. SUZAN K. DELBENE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Abe Friedman for his exemplary service to the people of Washington's First Congressional District. For more than four years, Abe has been an indispensable member of my team, helping ensure that our legislative work always stayed closely aligned with the priorities and values of our constituents.

As someone who grew up on Capitol Hill in Seattle, Abe has brought to our office a deep