

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 Kils 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

understanding of the Pacific Northwest region and a steadfast commitment to delivering results for families, workers, and businesses across the district. His work on trade, foreign policy, and health care demonstrated a valuable combination of policy expertise, strategic insight, and tireless dedication.

Abe's contributions have made a real difference in people's lives. He helped lead efforts to stand up against harmful tariffs and supported the introduction of the Prevent Tariff Abuse Act, which aims to protect Washington's economy and jobs. Abe also showed deep commitment to fixing our health care system, playing a major role in advancing legislation to reform prior authorization to allow patients to get the care they need without facing hurdles. He also supported the construction of new military housing at Naval Station Everett to ensure our servicemembers and their families had a safe place to call home. Amid the baby formula shortage in 2022, Abe fought hard to remove tariffs on imported formula to ensure families had safe, affordable access to the nutrition infants need. Abe fought hard to secure disaster relief for dairy farmers and growers who were hit the hardest during the 2021 heat dome.

Through every challenge, Abe brought a calm presence, a sharp policy mind, and quick wit. This work often happened behind the scenes, but its impact will be felt across Washington's First District for years to come. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Abe Friedman and wishing him the best in his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING EMILY MAZZARO

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 Emily Mazzaro has made to our community through her volunteer service at Double Branch Elementary School. Emily is the PTA President at Double Branch Elementary School. There is no job too big or too small for her to take on. She can be seen most days on campus before the bell rings, whether volunteering in the media center assisting students, collaborating with staff members about the needs that they have and how she can assist them, or orchestrating amazing events for within the school community. This year alone, Emily has spearheaded large events such as our Rancher Roundup (school carnival) with a multitude of vendors from the community, and a variety of small and large fundraisers such as Build a Buddy that created revenue for technology needs, recess carts for all grade levels, and a backdrop with the school logo for special events with students. Under her leadership, the PTA also supports classroom needs with teacher grants, where teachers can individually or as a team request funds. She also supported the school's new PBIS House system with custom flags and t-shirts for all staff members, handmade by her. Just last year, the PTA donated over \$10,000 to the media center to refresh its library with new books. These are just a few of the examples of the programs and initiatives that Emily leads. We are so blessed that if we voice a

need, Emily responds quickly to fill it. In addition to being so hardworking, Emily is just a pleasure to work with. She always has a smile on her face and is ready with a quick joke to make those around her laugh. The entire staff adores her and is so appreciative of her efforts in making Double Branch a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. Emily is an integral part of the Double Branch school climate and culture.

It is clear Emily Mazzaro 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 THE WEST AMWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT ON THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Amwell Volunteer Fire Department as they celebrate 75 years of service to our community. Since its founding in 1949, the department has provided essential fire protection and rescue services to the residents of West Amwell Township. Their commitment to answering the call in times of need, often under dangerous and demanding conditions, is a testament to the sense of courage, duty, and selflessness embodying the very best of New Jersey's first responders. As June 14th approaches, the community comes together to reflect on this special milestone and honor the dedication of the men and women who have spent decades working to keep West Amwell safe.

As the West Amwell Volunteer Fire Department celebrates 75 years of distinguished service, I look forward to seeing their continued growth and commitment to public safety for years to come.

RECOGNIZING HARRY WHITE

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. Harry White 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. White was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear Mr. Harry White 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.

COMMEMORATING MAY 2, 2025 AS NATIONAL SPACE DAY

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2025

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Space Day, a moment to honor the extraordinary contributions of the aerospace community to our Nation and the world. Designating May 2, 2025, as National Space Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the past, recognize the advancements of today, and inspire the possibilities of tomorrow.

Our Nation has long led the way in space exploration. From the Apollo missions that landed the first humans on the Moon to today's Artemis program, which will take us back to the Moon and beyond, the United States has shown what's possible when bold ideas meet determination. These milestones remind us of the pioneering spirit that defines America.

Today, we see that same spirit driving innovation in every corner of the space sector. NASA's groundbreaking missions, the Space Force's contributions to national security, and the work of private companies and universities are redefining what we can achieve in space. In Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District, we're witnessing history made through initiatives like the Big Red Satellite team, where students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Aerospace eXperimental Payload team, along with middle and high school students from Lincoln, Omaha, and Aurora, built the state's first CubeSat satellite. This satellite, launched in 2024 on NASA's 30th commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station, represents the unlimited promise of our next generation.

Space exploration doesn't just inspire; it delivers real benefits to our daily lives. Our Nation's farmers utilize technologies like GPS, weather satellites, and internet connectivity, which has allowed our producers to increase efficiency and productivity in their operations. NASA's impact on Nebraska is significant, supporting 33 jobs and generating \$7.4 million in economic output, along with \$238,000 in state tax revenue. For every million dollars of economic output generated by NASA civil service employees, an additional \$6.6 million is sustained throughout our state economy.

Nebraska's contributions to space exploration are significant and growing. Four Nebraska suppliers have contributed to NASA's Artemis program, including manufacturing supplies for Exploration Ground Systems at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. We're also proud of our state's space heritage through Clayton C. Anderson, Nebraska's first and only astronaut, who spent 152 days aboard the International Space Station and conducted three spacewalks totaling over 18 hours.

Perhaps most importantly, National Space Day reminds us to invest in the next generation. By investing in STEM education, we ensure that young people across Nebraska and the Nation have the tools they need to dream big and take on the challenges of tomorrow. Programs like the NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium at the University of Nebraska Omaha and our state's partnerships