

RECOGNIZING JASON CHASE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Mr. Jason Chase 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. Chase was a strong advocate for bringing in government and non-profit resources to aid in the recovery process.

It is clear that Jason Chase 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 THE RETIREMENT
OF FRANK CASKEY**HON. BARRY MOORE**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the outstanding contributions, hard work, and legacy of Mr. Frank Caskey. His dedicated service to the Alabama Legislature over several decades has made a lasting impact on the lives of many Alabamians.

Mr. Caskey has dedicated many years of his life to serving the Alabama Legislature and its citizens. Beginning his career in 1970 as a clerk for Senator James B. Allen, Frank's commitment to public service continued through his education at Auburn University and his work as a legislative aide. He joined the Alabama Legislative Reference Service in 1974 and served there until 1979 before pursuing a successful legal career. In 1992, he returned to the Legislative Reference Service, bringing with him a wealth of legal knowledge and expertise, making significant contributions to the legislative process.

Throughout his career, Frank's work in areas like local laws, taxation, and environmental law had a lasting impact, and his advice was highly valued by legislators, lobbyists, and fellow attorneys. His exceptional memory and institutional knowledge of the legislature were unmatched, and his dedication to public service earned him great respect. Now retired, Frank's legacy continues, and we wish him happiness and fulfillment as he enjoys his retirement, exploring the Great Smoky Mountains. His contributions to the state will never be forgotten.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Frank Caskey on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his public service.

CONGRATULATING BILL KEPNER
ON HIS RETIREMENT**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor and congratulate Mr. Bill Kepner on his retirement as CEO of United Disabilities Services.

Bill Kepner has a storied history with United Disabilities Services, a nonprofit that helps disabled individuals, veterans, and seniors live more independent and fulfilling lives. He first served as a board member and board president for ten years in two separate stints and joined the organization as their Chief Operating Officer in 2008. Following the departure of Gerry Meck, Bill became CEO in 2010 and has marked his tenure as a vocal advocate for people with disabilities.

Before his position with UDS, Bill was the Chief Operating Officer for the Inglis Foundation, a Philadelphia housing and community services organization for disabled individuals, and he was Regional Vice President for Apria Healthcare and CEO for the Kairos Foundation. Additionally, he served as president of the Pennsylvania Providers Coalition Association and developed Non-Profit Management Solutions, a nonprofit LLC that assists other nonprofits with management services.

As he settles into his new role as Senior Consultant, I thank Bill Kepner for his invaluable and selfless work at United Disabilities Services. UDS has transformed the lives of people with disabilities across Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District and beyond, and I am proud to represent both their CEO and their foundation in Congress.

RECOGNIZING JEANNE WHITE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jeanne White has made through her work with K-9 Partners for Patriots. After retiring from a successful career, Jeanne completed a two-year apprentice trainer program. She currently serves as Director of K9 Acquisition and a Certified Dog Trainer with more than 20 years' experience at K-9 Partners for Patriots. Jeanne's dedication to matching Veterans with the perfect rescue dog goes far beyond expectations. She has an encyclopedic understanding of dogs and their behaviors and serves multiple roles from training to K9 evaluations and acquisitions. She is also the liaison with Rescues; Animal Societies; and Animal Control agencies throughout the greater Tampa Bay metro area. Jeanne places dogs into temporary care at foster homes and follows them all the way through until she is able to schedule a meet-and-greet with a Veteran she feels would be the right match for the dog. Once a match is made and the dog goes home with their Veteran, Jeanne remains a constant source of support—always just a phone call away—even during late nights and weekends. She never lets anyone feel alone or without help.

It is clear Jeanne White 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 LIEUTENANT COLONEL
TIMOTHY G. VOWELL**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Timothy G. Vowell, who has dedicated 30 years of exemplary service to our Nation through his career in the United States Air Force (USAF), as well as his subsequent contributions to education and the federal government. His outstanding service and unwavering commitment to the values of leadership, integrity, and duty are a testament to his character and devotion to our country.

After joining the Air Force, Colonel Vowell served with distinction in a variety of roles, ultimately retiring as a highly respected officer. Following his distinguished military service, Mr. Vowell continued to serve his community as an Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) instructor at Clinton High School. His impact as an educator was profound, shaping the lives of countless young cadets and imparting the values of discipline, respect, and leadership that will carry them throughout their lives.

Additionally, Colonel Vowell served as the Faculty Advisor for the Academy of Military Science, further extending his reach in mentoring future leaders of our Nation. His dedication to the academic and moral development of young minds is a model of public service that goes beyond military duties, inspiring students to pursue excellence in both their academic and personal lives.

In his role within the Department of Defense (DoD), Colonel Vowell provided invaluable support for national aerospace leadership, helping to advance strategic initiatives that continue to safeguard our national interests. His expertise and guidance played a significant role in shaping policy and providing support to the United States Congress on aerospace and defense matters.

Furthermore, Colonel Vowell's tireless efforts led to the development and implementation of the Inspector General Complaints Resolution Program within the federal government. His leadership in this important initiative improved the transparency and accountability of federal operations, ensuring that complaints were addressed with the seriousness and efficiency they deserved.

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I recognize Timothy G. Vowell for his extraordinary service to our Nation. His dedication, leadership, and contributions to both the military and civilian sectors stand as a model of public service. I wish him continued success in his well-deserved retirement and express my sincere appreciation for all he has done in support of our great Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed Roll Call No. 115 and Roll Call No. 116 on May 5, 2025.

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 115, I would have voted YEA, and had I been present for Roll Call No. 116, I would have voted YEA.

RECOGNIZING JENNA COUSINS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jenna Cousins has made through her volunteerism at Gulf Highlands Elementary School. Jenna supports the school in so many ways. She is at every School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting, supports all extra-curricular events, and consistently pitches in whenever needed. The students know her and look forward to seeing her around campus.

It is clear Jenna Cousins 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.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
JUDY THOMAS**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable educator, dedicated public servant, and longstanding friend, the Honorable Judy Thomas. Sadly, Judy passed from labor to reward on April 19, 2025. A funeral service to celebrate her remarkable life will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, at St. Luke Church in Columbus, Georgia.

The genesis of Judy Thomas's life began with her birth to the union of William H. Lt. (Bill) Williams and Alice Williams. She graduated from Jordan Vocational High School in 1964, later earning her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the Women's College of Georgia, now Georgia College and State University.

Judy began her teaching career at Bibb Elementary School in Columbus, where she was a fifth and sixth grade teacher. Due to her unwavering commitment to education and the future of young people, she was honored as Columbus Teacher of the Year in 1973. During that same time, she served as President of the Muscogee Association of Educators. On May 9, 2021, Judy was awarded the Jim Buntin Leadership Award for Excellence in Education for the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation, which was a special honor for her as this award was named after her close friend and former Muscogee County School Superintendent.

Judy eventually moved to California to continue her educational career, but Columbus was never far from her heart. She returned to her beloved Columbus in 2006 and became actively involved in the successful Mayoral Campaign of Mayor Jim Wetherington, where she served as Chief of Staff from 2006 to 2010. During her time in the Mayor's Office, she was instrumental in passing the 2008 SLOST Referendum, which enabled the hiring of 100 police officers in Columbus—a measure that continues to benefit our community today. Judy left the Mayor's Office in 2010 to launch her campaign for the Columbus City Council.

Elected to the Columbus City Council in 2011, Judy served honorably for four terms representing District Nine (At-Large). She diligently assumed the role of Budget Chair for several Council cycles, always focused on fiscal responsibility while ensuring that the needs of Columbus citizens were met. Her fingerprints and legacy will be evident in Columbus for many years to come. Her voice and vote were critical in efforts to renovate Golden Park, which helped bring the Atlanta Braves Double-A team to our city.

Judy was a truth-teller, always voting her conscience, earning the respect and admiration of those she served.

Throughout her life, Judy exemplified a commitment to service, a trait she inherited from her parents, who were both devoted to their community—her father as the Columbus District Fire Chief and her mother as the first certified medical assistant in the State of Georgia. It has been said that “service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.” Judy paid her rent and paid it well, dedicating her time and resources to numerous community organizations, including the National Infantry Museum, the Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation, Open Door Community Center, St. Luke Church Administrative Board, Girls in the Game, Chattahoochee Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Jordan Vocational High School College and Career Academy Advisory Board, RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, Columbus State University Military Affiliated Student Support Fund, the Rotary Club of Columbus, and the Miracle Riders.

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of knowing Judy for many years. I am incredibly grateful for her support and the fidelity of her friendship. She never told me what she felt I wanted to hear; instead, she always shared what she felt I needed to hear.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in honoring the life and legacy of Councilor Judy Thomas. Moreover, we extend our deepest sympathies to Councilor Thomas's family, friends, colleagues, and all those who mourn her loss during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will find consolation and comfort through abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months to come.

HONORING TONY LAMONT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Tony Lamont, a pillar of Indianapolis who has dedicated over 40 years of service to our community.

Tony is a broadcasting legend and proud Hoosier, whose remarkable career has touched the lives of countless individuals across multiple generations. His trailblazing journey began in 1980 at WTLC FM as the morning on-air personality, a role that set him on a trajectory to further success. He went on to become the longest-standing African American game show host with the Hoosier Lottery.

Today, as the host of his own gospel radio show on AM 1310, The Light-Praise Indy, Tony's message continues to resonate, bringing inspiration, hope, and encouragement to Hoosier listeners. Together with his wife, Cathy Holloway Hill, Tony produced the Living by Design TV show, which became the highest-rated program on the WHMB network. Tony was inducted into the 2024 Indiana Broadcasting Hall of Fame for his exceptional contributions to broadcasting.

Tony's commitment to the Indianapolis community extends far beyond media. His work with the Marion County Health Department helped reduce rates of STD's and syphilis in Indianapolis. Through the Tony Lamont Youth Motivational Programs, established in 1985, Tony has helped mentor and train hundreds of thousands of young people, offering them a path from the streets to meaningful opportunities.

Tony Lamont's life is a testament to perseverance, leadership, and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tony Lamont for his lifelong achievements and commitment to the people of Indianapolis and beyond.

RECOGNIZING JERRY PHILLIPS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions that Jerry Phillips has made through his volunteerism with the Area Agency on Aging of Pinellas and Pasco Counties. Jerry Phillips began his journey with the SHINE program in 2013 and with his easy manner and tremendous amount of patience he has put Pasco & Pinellas residents at ease about their Medicare options. SHINE, (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a statewide, volunteer-based program offering free Medicare and Health insurance education, counseling, and assistance to people with Medicare and their families and caregivers.

Since 2013, Jerry has demonstrated his commitment and dedication to serving seniors through the SHINE Program. Jerry has provided more than 2,000 hours volunteering since 2013. He continues to educate seniors and people with disabilities about Medicare ensuring they have the best possible