

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

healthcare. Since 2013, Jerry has also served as the Pasco County Local Coordinator for SHINE Volunteers within the Area Agency on Aging as well as a Florida Statewide SHINE Trainer. He has traveled around the state for the Florida Department of Elder Affairs educating SHINE Volunteers. Jerry is a true advocate and can be relied on to accept any challenges that arise.

In addition to Volunteering with the SHINE program he is a Lay Pastor in his church and has spent time assisting with Metropolitan Ministries, the Shepard Center in Tarpon Springs, Cares Senior Center, and other non-profit organizations. He also volunteers with the Supervisor of Elections and as an election worker during the voting season. In addition to his volunteer work, his wife Phyllis, who is his high school sweetheart of 50+ years, and his children and grandchildren keep him busy.

It is clear Jerry Phillips 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 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COLONEL RICHARD TUCKER

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 Colonel Richard Tucker. His dedicated service to Alabama and the United States has made a lasting impact on the lives of many.

Colonel Richard Tucker is a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, where he was commissioned in 1998. Mr. Tucker served as Chief of Staff at Ft. Novosel, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

Colonel Tucker has served our Nation throughout a remarkable career spanning multiple continents, commands, and combat zones. He is highly decorated for valor and meritorious service, and his leadership has been instrumental across a wide array of assignments, from commanding aviation units in North Carolina, Central America, and Korea, to shaping strategic initiatives at the U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence. He has been deployed in support of critical operations in Bosnia, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Haiti, and Central America. A Master Army Aviator and Senior Parachutist, Colonel Tucker holds advanced degrees in psychology, human resources, and strategic studies. His legacy of leadership, dedication, and excellence will leave a lasting impact on Army Aviation and all who have served alongside him.

I would like to congratulate Colonel Richard Tucker on his well-deserved retirement and thank him for his service and dedication to the United States of America.

HONORING THE CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS OF MS. CHRISTINA L. RICHARDS

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional career achievements of Ms. Christina L. Richards, a committed civil servant, decorated veteran, and a constituent of the 2nd Congressional District of our great state of Nebraska. Today she works as Executive Director of the Office of the Inspector General of the United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. In this role she is responsible for overseeing the Inspector General's staff which includes conducting Inspector General inquiries, analysis, investigations and inspections, as well as providing technical advice for the command.

She previously served in the U.S. Air Force for over 21 years, where her hard work and dedication enabled her to work her way to the top. Ms. Richards started her military service as an Air Force loadmaster where she worked on over twenty campaigns and operations. She then served as adjutant for a KC-135 training squadron and later as Chief of Protocol at Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma. As she advanced in rank and experience, Ms. Richards was given more authority and responsibility, ultimately becoming a Detachment Commander with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). In this position she performed critical work in Colorado, California, Hawaii, the Republic of Korea, and Qatar. As an AFOSI Detachment Commander she directed felony-level criminal investigations, counterterrorism operations, protection of the President, and defensive and offensive counterintelligence and counterespionage operations.

After retiring from the Air Force, Ms. Richards continued to serve her country. Among her many positions, she served for more than six years in United States Strategic Command's Missile Defense and Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction Division, where she led the command's Missile Defense Issue Team, several Deputy Secretary of Defense-directed Strategic Portfolio Reviews, the Secretary of Defense Combatant Command Review 1.0 and 2.0 for missile defense matters, and the President of the United States-directed 2019 Missile Defense Review. She co-authored a proposal for transfer of the missile defense mission from USSTRATCOM that was ultimately accepted and included in the 2022 Unified Command Plan.

Ms. Richards' major awards include the Omaha-Lincoln Federal Executive Association Team of the Year and Supervisory Employee of the Year; DoD's Best Force Protection Program Team Award; the FBI Director's Award for Exceptional Service in the Public Trust; and multiple awards of the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Medal; the Aerial Achievement Medal; the Meritorious Unit Award; the USAF Outstanding Unit Award; the Combat Readiness Medal; and other military medals and decorations.

Ms. Christina Richards' dedication, service, and leadership stands as a testament to the hard work and loyalty of the service men and women of our country and is an inspiration for

future civil servants and members of the United States Armed Forces.

RECOGNIZING JOANNE GILLESPIE

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 Joanne Gillespie has made to our community through her volunteerism at NAMI Hernando. Joanne is a retired Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teacher and current Board Secretary of NAMI Hernando since 2017. In these roles, she has been a dedicated champion for mental health education and inclusion. As the mother of an adult son living with schizophrenia, Joanne brings both personal insight and professional experience to everything she does. NAMI is grounded in the power of lived experience, and Joanne embodies that mission wholeheartedly. For eight years, Joanne has taught Family-to-Family classes and led Family Support Groups, offering encouragement and understanding to others walking a similar path. She is also a certified instructor for Mental Health First Aid and Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP), further extending her impact in the community. In addition to her peer support and education roles, Joanne chairs NAMI Hernando's Fundraising Committee and has been an active contributor to the Finance Committee, helping guide sustainable growth for the organization. Her thoughtful insight and nurturing spirit bring clarity and compassion to board decisions, and she has played a key role in streamlining internal communications and administrative processes. Joanne's background as an educator gives her a unique perspective on the emotional and developmental needs of families and youth. She frequently goes above and beyond to offer support, guidance, and hope to those navigating complex mental health systems. Whether advocating for youth mental health, organizing community events, or mentoring families, Joanne is a voice of wisdom, patience, and grace.

It is clear Joanne Gillespie 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 TONY REINHART

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize a dedicated constituent of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District: Mr. Tony Reinhart. Tony is celebrating his thirtieth year with Ford Motor Company, a remarkable professional milestone. Tony's three decades of devoted service is an exceptional achievement that reflects his deep commitment, expertise, and enduring leadership within one of America's most iconic corporations.

Throughout his tenure, Tony has held various critical roles. He currently serves as Ford