

esteemed R.W. Schambach on the Southside of Chicago. There, she not only became a devout Christian but also an ordained Evangelist, embodying the strength and devotion of her faith. Despite never obtaining a driver's license, Johnnie Mae remained a steadfast, lifelong rider of the Chicago Transit Authority, traveling daily by bus for her work and church duties. Her determination and resilience were reflected in every aspect of her life.

Johnnie Mae was revered by all who knew her. In the neighborhood, when she walked down the street, there was an unspoken respect. Neighbors would remove their hats, hide their beer cans, and straighten up their behavior, for they knew that "Mamma Streater" was a woman of integrity, a true representative of God's love. Her presence commanded respect, and no one wanted to disappoint her with anything less than their best. Johnnie Mae was the rock of her family, the heart of her community, and a source of unwavering love and strength. Her absence will be deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the life of Ms. Johnnie Mae Streater.

REMEMBERING MRS. DORETTA BROWN

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Doretta Brown. She was a woman of quiet strength, deep faith, and unwavering love for her family, students, and community. Her presence brought warmth, wisdom, and a gentle grace that touched the lives of all who knew her.

Born on March 26, 1953, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mrs. Brown was the eldest daughter of Tommie and Daisy Royster. She moved through life with a deep sense of purpose and compassion, grounded in the values instilled in her from a young age. She was baptized in 1966 at Linwood Church of Christ, a moment that reflected the faith that would anchor her life.

What truly defined Mrs. Brown was her deep love of family. As a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother, her greatest joy was spent with her late husband, Mr. Ivory Brown, and their two children, Anthony and Duryea Doran. She later became a proud grandmother to Anthony, Jaxon, Skylar, and Hudson. She was also a loving aunt to two nephews and four nieces, nurturing them with the same kindness and care she gave to everyone in her life. Mrs. Brown cherished every moment spent with her family—a life filled with love and partnership until her passing.

Mrs. Brown worked as an occupational therapist at Cataract Elementary School in Niagara Falls, New York, where she was admired for her dedication and gentle, healing spirit she brought to her work and students. Her love of reading reflected her lifelong commitment to learning and the power of education. Perhaps one of the most treasured memories for those who knew her was hearing her sing the song "Grace"—a simple yet powerful testament to the faith and love she carried within her heart.

Mrs. Doretta Brown lived a life of compassion, service, and enduring faith. Her legacy lives on through the countless lives she touched, the family she loved so dearly, and the grace with which she walked through the world. Her strength, kindness, and dedication will always be remembered, and her legacy will continue to inspire all those whose lives she touched.

RECOGNIZING THE 2025 SOUTH FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACHIEVEMENT HONORS GALA HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the honorees of the 2025 Achievement Honors Gala. Each year, the Chamber brings together community and business leaders and extraordinary individuals who exemplify service, innovation, and dedication to our community.

This year's Member to Watch Award recipient is Dr. Swathi M. Reddy of All Smiles Orthodontics. A native of India and a lifelong learner, Dr. Reddy has pursued excellence in her field across three countries. She earned her dental degree in India, her DMD from Boston University where she graduated with high honors and was inducted into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon honor fraternity, and her specialization in Orthodontics from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a local practitioner and community leader, Dr. Reddy has donated 3D printers to elementary schools and actively supports numerous professional organizations. She is a great example of how professional excellence can be paired with deep community investment.

The Community Impact Award honors two remarkable individuals: Elena Jordon and Ron Kowalski, both of whom have made lasting contributions to South Fairfax.

For more than a decade, Elena Jordon has volunteered with the South County Athletic Booster Club, raising over \$40,000 annually and helping organize major community events such as the Lorton Holiday Extravaganza and the Spring Fling. As co-founder of The Emma Jordon Kidz Fighting Cancer Foundation named in honor of her daughter, Elena has raised over \$140,000 in support of pediatric oncology research and families at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Her legacy of service is driven not only by experience, as a veteran of the Army Nurse Corps, but also by her compassion.

Ron Kowalski, founding member of the Chamber and leader of the Ron K Real Estate Group, has also played a pivotal role in the community. For the past ten years, he has served on the Board of the Lorton Community Action Center and organized the popular Monopoly Tournament fundraiser, now in its 16th year. His dedication to civic life exemplifies the spirit of leadership that strengthens our community.

The Chamber also supports the next generation of business leaders through its Student Pro-Growth Business Scholarships, which recognize outstanding high school seniors who

have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit and academic achievement. I am proud to congratulate and include in the RECORD the 2025 scholarship recipients:

Gavin Flynn, South County High School  
Christine Le, Mount Vernon High School  
Ella Ridgway, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Zachary Allen, South County High School  
Aidan Barker, West Springfield High School

These students represent the best of South Fairfax's future, and their achievements give us great hope for the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2025 honorees and thanking the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce for its ongoing work to support local businesses and recognize community champions.

HONORING JEREMY ZAVITZ

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jeremy Zavitz, a dedicated educator, loving husband, and devoted father who touched the lives of so many in our community. Mr. Zavitz passed away on February 22, 2025, after a 24-year fight with brain cancer, but his legacy will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Mr. Zavitz was born in Minneapolis and was a proud graduate of Orono High School. He later attended the University of St. Thomas, where he earned a degree in history and teaching. Initially, Mr. Zavitz embarked on a career in real estate and business development but ultimately found his calling in education. In 2012, Mr. Zavitz began his tenure at DeLaSalle High School as a social studies teacher, where his vibrant spirit, unwavering dedication, and passion for teaching radiated.

Known for his energetic and engaging classes, Mr. Zavitz had the unique ability to transform lessons into powerful stories that captivated his students. His approach to teaching was rooted in authenticity and compassion, making every student feel welcome, valued, and heard. Colleagues and students alike remember him not just for his knowledge and dedication to teaching but also for his commitment to living a life of purpose.

Jeremy is survived by his loving wife, Maud Zavitz, and their 7-year-old son, Edmund John Zavitz. He leaves behind a legacy not only through his family but through the generations of students who carry forward his lessons of kindness, authenticity, and perseverance.

Mr. Speaker, Jeremy Zavitz was a true example of what it means to lead a life of service to others, and his impact on DeLaSalle High School, his community in South Minneapolis, and his family will never be forgotten. Today, we honor his memory and express our deepest condolences to his family and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
CATHY BLYTHE

**HON. MIKE FLOOD**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of one of Lincoln's cornerstones: Cathy Blythe.

Growing up in Lincoln, Cathy quickly knew that she wanted to pursue a career in broadcasting. She got her start at KFOR in 1972 and worked her way up to eventually become the co-host of the KFOR Morning Show.

Over the years, Cathy touched the hearts of all who tuned in. Her stories and wit cemented her reputation, which was only rivaled by her active involvement in local charities and non-profits.

Cathy's dedication, talent, and integrity were recognized with her induction into the Nebraska Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame in 2011.

Cathy will be deeply missed by all of us—especially by the generations of listeners who enjoyed her broadcasts before her retirement. Our hearts and prayers go out to her loved ones as we all celebrate the life of one of Lincoln's brightest lights.

HONORING BETHANY MOY

**HON. CHUCK EDWARDS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Bethany Moy, for her work as an intern serving in my D.C. 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 fall.

Bethany is from Elmsford, New York, and recently graduated from American University, earning her Masters of International Affairs. Bethany is a graduate of Gordon College and majored in History with a minor in Political Science.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Bethany 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 Bethany, and I am so proud to have had such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office. Bethany exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Bethany on the successful completion of her internship and thank her on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS BUFFALO CHAPTER

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Buffalo Chapter of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYCPA). Since its founding on February 5, 1925, the Buffalo Chapter of NYCPA has been a pillar of Western New York's professional and civic life. Visionaries like Mr. Luther K. Watkins, Mr. William J. Gunnell, and Mr. Edward C. Gruen joined together with a group of dedicated Certified Public Accountants to build a local organization where accounting professionals could connect and collaborate. Their vision created a foundation that continues to thrive today.

Now, a full century later, the NYCPA Buffalo Chapter has become one of the most dynamic and active in New York State, proudly serving members across Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties. Under the leadership of Chapter President Ms. Mindy Rose Elinski, and following in the impressive footsteps of past presidents, the Buffalo Chapter continues to embody the spirit of collaboration, mentorship, and community that its founders have worked tirelessly to establish.

Through events like Buffalo Educational Night and New CPA Celebration, the Buffalo Chapter brings together students, educators, and career professionals to celebrate academic excellence and career achievement. The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants Buffalo Chapter has been a source of support, growth, and inspiration for generations. The Buffalo Chapter has consistently worked to engage everyone from high school students to retirees, ensuring the accounting profession remains resilient, inclusive, and future-focused.

What makes the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants Buffalo Chapter so special is not just its professional excellence, but its heart. As we celebrate 100 years of their Buffalo chapter, let us recognize their success and contributions to Western New York. Their work reminds us that when we invest in people, nurture talent, mentor the next generation, and support each other, we all benefit together.

HONORING REVEREND MIRIAM MERCADO

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Reverend Miriam Mercado and her service to our community. Reverend Mercado peacefully passed away in her home on Easter Day, April 20, 2025, at the age of 101.

On July 23, 1923, Miriam Mercado was born in Puerto Rico. When she was nine years old,

her family moved to New York, and in 1968, she moved her family to California where she ultimately resided in the Inland Empire.

For the past 30 years, Reverend Mercado lived in the City of Claremont where she served as a Staff Minister to the Claremont Church of Religious Science. Additionally, she not only ran a successful business as a Tax Accountant, but she also spent 18 years volunteering as a Chaplain at the Pomona Valley Hospital.

Ms. Mercado was a true businesswoman who always kept her roots in mind. She made efforts to start a business that served Puerto Rican rice dishes after discovering the lack of Puerto Rican restaurants in her neighborhood.

In her adult life, her family and community looked up to her as the matriarch of her family. As a single mother, she had six children and later went on to have two grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. When she had the opportunity to further her education, Rev. Mercado attended San Antonio College in unison with her oldest grandchild.

Even when met with unexpected challenges, she persisted. At the age of 56, a stroke left her aphasic and with communication difficulties, forcing her to retire. At 96, she was met with another stroke coupled with isolation from the COVID-19 pandemic. Still, Miriam ensured close communication with her family and others in the community, demonstrating that unexpected challenges would not strain her relationships with those she loved.

In her late 70s, she helped found the Agape International Spiritual Center in Los Angeles. Inspired by her upbringing as a spiritualist due to the influence of her Jamaican grandmother, she remained very involved with the Center for Spiritual Living throughout the rest of her life.

For her outstanding accomplishments and remarkable life, it is my honor to recognize Reverend Miriam Mercado. Her service and commitment to the Inland Empire and beyond are worthy of the highest commendation.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SILVERADO RANCH COMMUNITY CENTER IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

**HON. SUSIE LEE**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the one-year anniversary of the Silverado Ranch Community Center in Clark County, Nevada.

Since opening its doors, the Silverado Ranch Community Center has become a cornerstone of engagement, learning, and well-being for families and residents of all ages. From youth programs and senior activities to public meetings and fitness classes, the Center has served as a vital hub for connection and opportunity in the growing southeast area of the Las Vegas Valley.

This achievement would not have been possible without the foresight and commitment of the Clark County Commission, whose leadership continues to invest in high-quality community infrastructure that enhances the lives of local residents. Their support reflects the values of accessibility, inclusion, and forward-thinking civic development.