

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.

I would also like to extend heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff of the Silverado Ranch Community Center. Their tireless efforts, professionalism, and welcoming spirit have made this first year a resounding success.

As we celebrate this anniversary, let it serve as a testament to what can be accomplished when local government, public servants, and community members come together with a shared vision. This is a great milestone in our community.

I look forward to many more years of growth, service, and celebration at Silverado Ranch.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to illness, I was unable to vote on May 8, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No 122.

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CELEBRATING DAWNA DURHAM

**HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor an exceptional individual, Ms. Dawna Durham, whose impact in the fields of entertainment, literature, and community service have been nothing short of inspiring. As a creative and compassionate leader, Ms. Durham has left a permanent mark on both her community and the social setting of Western New York.

As an event planner, Ms. Durham has arranged some of the Western New York's most iconic events, including The Health Care Ball, The Homage Awards, Wild 'N Out Buffalo Style, Buffalo Soul Train, and Wild 'N Out Bingo. These events celebrate art, fashion and culture, while also uplifting our community and shining light on local talents.

In addition to her talents in event planning, Ms. Durham is a gifted author and playwright. Her compelling book, *There's Nothing Like A Woman Scorned*, illustrates a powerful display of resilience and emotion—purchased by readers across the Nation. Ms. Durham explores complex and challenging aspects of life in her literary works, including *Love Hurts*, *Forgive Me Beloved*, *The Nursing Home*, *A Struggle of a Man*, and *Hurt People, Hurt People*. Her writing is characterized by its candidness and distinct stylistic approach. Ms. Durham's play *Love Hurts* was so impactful that it earned her a formal proclamation from the Mayor of Niagara Falls in 2011, a testament to the profound effects her storytelling has had on the community.

Ms. Durham's impact reaches far beyond the world of arts. As a dedicated philanthropist and community leader, she freely shares her time and talents to organize events that empower and uplift those in need. Her humility and selflessness shine through every project she undertakes, touching lives and inspiring others along the way.

Her entrepreneurial spirit is exemplified through her diverse ventures, including the founding of influential organizations such as the 716 Ebony Essence Awards, Yo716, The Homage Awards LLC, Destiny Production and Management, Better With Time LLC, alongside impactful media initiatives like *Destiny Talk Show*, *Let's Talk Fashion* with *Destiny*, and her own reality series, *Taste of Life*.

In recognition of her many contributions, Ms. Durham has received several well-deserved accolades, including the Buffalo Babes Award in 2022 and the Black Excellence Award in 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Durham's many accomplishments and dedication to uplifting others. Her creativity, passion, and commitment to her community makes her a role model for generations to come.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on missed votes from May 14, 2025. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 129.

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HONORING SHERIFF LEE FOSTER FOR HIS STEADFAST LEADERSHIP TO NEWBERRY COUNTY AND THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**HON. SHERI BIGGS**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Lee Foster of Newberry County, South Carolina, for his remarkable service and historic leadership in law enforcement.

Sheriff Foster holds the distinction of being the longest-serving, currently active sheriff in the State of South Carolina—a title he has earned through decades of unwavering dedication to his community and to public safety.

First elected in 1988 and beginning his first term in January 1989, Sheriff Foster has faithfully served the people of Newberry County for more than 35 years. Throughout that time, he has been a constant and steady presence—trusted by his community, respected by his peers, and recognized at every level of government for his service.

His law enforcement career began in 1973 as a junior officer in the Town of Prosperity. From there, he served as Chief of Police in Little Mountain, rose through the ranks of the Newberry County Sheriff's Office, and served as a Senior Criminology Instructor at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. His is a career built on experience, earned trust, and deep knowledge of the communities he has served.

Over the years, Sheriff Foster has received numerous accolades, including the Order of the Palmetto—the highest civilian honor in South Carolina—the Strom Thurmond Award

for Excellence in Law Enforcement, Sheriff of the Year by both the South Carolina Sheriffs' Association and the South Carolina Victims' Advocates Association, and Humanitarian of the Year by the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement.

He has served on a wide range of advisory boards and task forces at the state and federal levels, lending his expertise to efforts focused on violent crime, homeland security, victim notification, and training standards. But perhaps what sets Sheriff Foster apart most is his leadership style. He is hands-on, approachable, and deeply involved in every part of the Sheriff's Office—from administrative strategy to accident scenes. His example reminds us that real leadership is about showing up and serving others.

Sheriff Foster and his wife, Carol, live in Newberry, where they raised their two children, Joseph and Amelia. They are beloved members of their community and have given so much of themselves in service to others.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Sheriff Lee Foster today—not only for his longevity in office but for the way he has served: with humility, courage, and a genuine love for the people of Newberry County. South Carolina is a safer, stronger place because of his service.

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HONORING DR. OLGA HUGELMEYER

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2025*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer as she is honored by Elizabeth's Promise Awards. Dr. Hugelmeyer is a distinguished educator and the Superintendent of Elizabeth Public Schools. Her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and her visionary leadership have profoundly impacted the students, educators, and the broader community of Elizabeth.

Dr. Hugelmeyer has dedicated her career to public education and to serving her community. She has worked in education for over 27 years and has served as a classroom teacher, Supervisor of Grants, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Superintendent of Elizabeth Public Schools. Her distinguished career demonstrates her unparalleled devotion to the students of Elizabeth's public schools.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Hugelmeyer has championed initiatives aimed at enhancing educational outcomes and fostering an environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed. She has led the Elizabeth Public School District with distinction through many challenging times, including the tumultuous COVID-19 pandemic. Her renowned leadership has not only elevated the standards of education within Elizabeth Public Schools, but has also served as an inspiration to countless students, educators, and administrators.

The House extends our deepest gratitude to Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer for her exemplary service and unwavering dedication to the field of education. Her contributions have left an indelible mark on the Elizabeth community and beyond.