

They make us all proud.

HONORING DR. CHARNETTE
MUNROE AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Charnette Munroe was born in Westmoreland, Jamaica, and immigrated to the United States in the 1980s. Proud of her Caribbean heritage, she honors the sacrifices of her Jamaican ancestors through her professional and academic achievements.

Dr. Munroe earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of South Florida, followed by a master's and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Nova Southeastern University. She completed her internship and geropsychology fellowship at the Dallas North Texas Health Care System.

Dedicated to serving her community, Dr. Munroe is a clinical geropsychologist with extensive experience in clinical and administrative roles. She began her federal career at Fort Bragg Army Medical Center, treating PTSD in active-duty service members. Her VA career started at the Tuskegee VA in Alabama, and in 2015, she joined the Orlando VA Health Care System (OVAHCS). At OVAHCS, Dr. Munroe has played a crucial role in geriatric mental health care, providing services for patients with dementia, hospice care, and spinal cord injuries and disorders. As the Mental Health Geriatrics and Extended Care (MH GEC) Program Manager, she oversees mental health services in the Community Living Center (CLC) and Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC). She supervises a team of psychologists and psychiatrists, ensuring clinical competence and patient access to care through program expansion, employee recruitment, and the implementation of best care practices.

Dr. Munroe aims to promote favorable health behavior outcomes for geriatric consumers. She established a monthly virtual forum for geropsychology VA supervisors nationwide, offering support, training, and practice reviews. As chair of the Orlando and VISN 8 Dementia Committees, she has led the implementation of the VHA Dementia System of Care Directive, developed dementia education and training plans, and continually addresses these needs. Dr. Munroe's contributions include formal presentations on brain health and dementia prevention, which have significantly impacted geriatric mental health and the broader healthcare community.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLEVUE-PAPILLION ROTARY CLUB

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bellevue-Papillion Rotary Club of Ne-

braska on the celebration of their 50th Anniversary.

Since its founding on January 15, 1975, the Bellevue-Papillion Rotary Club has exemplified the values of Rotary International by promoting peace, advancing education, and delivering vital services to the community. Over the past five decades this organization has remained a steadfast force for good in Eastern Sarpy County and beyond.

The club's service includes providing college scholarships to local students, honoring outstanding educators, and awarding community grants, their work has supported organizations such as the Bellevue food Pantry. Habitat for Humanity, and a local shelter for survivors of human trafficking. The club has also funded the installation of police dash cameras, contributed to holiday food programs, and invested in public amenities such as the gazebo at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home and benches at Papillion Landing.

In moments of crisis, the Bellevue-Papillion Rotary club has stepped up, including providing direct assistance to children affected by the 2019 floods. The club also supports global initiatives, including polio eradication and health assistance in Africa.

The rotary motto, "Service Above Self", is more than a guiding principle—it's a commitment the Bellevue-Papillion Rotary Club has lived every day for 50 years. Its members have made immeasurable contributions to the community and have set an example of civic responsibility and service.

I commend the Bellevue-Papillion Rotary Club for its remarkable legacy and congratulate its members on this milestone anniversary.

HONORING EDGAR "PETE" PETERS
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIB-
BEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Edgar "Pete" Peters has been a dedicated and hardworking operations agent with Southwest Airlines for the past 27 years. In 1998, the young Army veteran joined Southwest Airlines as a ramp agent in Baltimore, Maryland. He later accepted his current position and transferred to the Southwest Airlines operations in Orlando, Florida. Pete has worked in many capacities over the years, including as a member of the Safety and Emergency Care team, a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion representative, and as a training coordinator. He has been awarded many honors, including Operations Agent of the Quarter on several occasions and Operations Agent of the Year.

His passion for helping others and giving back to the community has led him to create The Ann Hewan Foundation, which contributes to his native Jamaica from his Lake Nona community in Central Florida. Pete, as he is known throughout the area and community, is heavily involved in charity work that supports underprivileged children. Each year, Pete collects, solicits, purchases, and ships back-to-school items, such as notebooks, pencils, backpacks, restored computers, and clothing

items, to Jamaica, where he partners with a local school and charity in the community. Throughout the school year, he collects and donates some of his own money to help support the Goodwill Infant and Primary School Breakfast Program, which now operates three days a week, providing breakfast to underprivileged children at school who are unable to get it at home. Pete's current project is assisting a local community charity in building a proper playing field for the kids at the Goodwill Primary and Infant School, which is almost 50% complete. The playing field will be used for recreational purposes and extracurricular activities, bringing joy and a sense of pride to the children and the community upon completion. Pete also helps out and supports local charity events around Central Florida communities and around the Southwest Airlines system.

Pete's dedication and low-key approach are what keep him going. As the son of Pinkie Hewan, who migrated to the United States in search of a better life, Pete's passion and understanding create the high octane for helping others and treating them with respect.

HONORING LILLIE CONNET

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lillie Connet, 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 summer. Lillie is from Hendersonville, North Carolina, and attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Lillie is entering her third year at Chapel Hill where she is studying Political Science.

Interns work with staff to serve constituents in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. Lillie 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 Lillie, and I am so proud to have had such an intelligent and ambitious intern representing my office.

Lillie exemplified the spirit of public service and represents the best that our Nation has to offer. I congratulate Lillie on the successful completion of her internship and thank her on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina.

HONORING MARIA ISABEL
SANQUÍRICO AS A DISTIN-
GUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HER-
ITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, recognized as one of the Top Women in PR by PRNews, Maria Isabel Sanquírigo is a force in multicultural communications and a fearless advocate for representation, equity, and authentic storytelling. An award-winning communications

strategist, certified crisis communicator, and former news anchor, she is the founder and CEO of Eleven 11 Communications—a public relations firm rooted in the values of service, inclusion, and impact.

Maria Isabel's career began in media at an early age, with a passion for using her voice to inform and uplift. She made history as the first Latina to anchor a solo evening newscast in Central Florida, serving as anchor of Telemundo's *Noticiero Telemundo Orlando* at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. Her work in broadcast journalism gave visibility to stories that were too often overlooked—highlighting the struggles, achievements, and resilience of Florida's Latino communities.

Determined to shape narratives from beyond the anchor desk, Maria Isabel launched Eleven 11 Communications, where she has spent over a decade helping public agencies, corporations, and elected officials develop inclusive strategies that reach and reflect the communities they serve. Her portfolio spans civic engagement, health equity, crisis response, and culturally relevant outreach campaigns. Following Hurricane Maria, she became a leading voice for displaced Puerto Ricans, using media and advocacy to connect families with life-saving resources.

She has been named "Ignitor of the Year" by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and recognized by the University of Puerto Rico—her alma mater—as one of its most distinguished communications alumni. She has served on several influential boards, including the City of Orlando Municipal Planning Board and the Adult Literacy League, and currently sits on the boards of United Arts and the Elle Collective at Seminole State College, where she champions women-owned businesses and the next generation of leaders of color.

Based in Central Florida, Maria Isabel continues to lead with vision and heart. Her work centers Latino voices in the public conversation, not only ensuring they are heard, but that they help shape the future. A trusted strategist, changemaker, and proud Puerto Rican, Maria Isabel Sanquircó is building a more informed, inclusive, and empowered community—one story at a time.

CELEBRATING LITERACY KC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Literacy KC, Kansas City's only adult-focused literacy organization, for their exceptional work challenging illiteracy in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. For forty years, Literacy KC has ceaselessly pursued its mission of promoting literacy for all and has empowered thousands of low-literate individuals through the organization's direct services, advocacy work, and community collaboration initiatives.

Literacy KC was born out of a passion for community engagement and mutual support. In 1985, a group of volunteers led by Catherine Mathews perceived a need for adult literacy services and took the initiative to form a small, literacy tutoring group. Initially, with only a handful of students, the organization worked

out of the basement at Country Club Congregational Church and relied solely on volunteer labor. Mathews affiliated the organization with the National Laubach Literacy Council, which gave the fledgling group access to curriculum and materials. Mathews and her team of unpaid instructors called themselves the Kansas City Laubach Literacy Council before changing their name to Literacy KC.

What began as an ambitious dream eventually became a reality, with the organization hiring an executive director and full-time staff as classroom sizes swelled and funding was secured. Literacy KC has advocated tirelessly for adult education programs since its inception, working to acknowledge and address the barriers low-literate adults face in the workforce and in daily life. Whether via direct service programs or advocacy efforts, Literacy KC seeks to address the consequences of low literacy—including an increased likelihood of poverty, incarceration, and health problems—for the 225,000 adults in the Kansas City area that are classified as low-literate.

Literacy education provides innumerable benefits, both to individuals and to our society at large. Greater literacy rates are correlated with higher levels of economic output, improved health outcomes, heightened civic participation, and decreased crime levels. Beyond practical considerations, the ability to read opens a portal of knowledge, discovery, and imagination that can transport readers across time, throughout space, and beyond reality. Literacy KC does not just focus on the downstream consequences of illiteracy, but works with thousands of students each year to tap into the wellspring of opportunities that literacy provides, empowering learners with the tools needed to improve their own lives.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the work that Literacy KC has done to improve literacy rates throughout Missouri's Fifth Congressional District. Since 1985, Literacy KC has offered hope to people in challenging situations and acted as a springboard for individuals that receive their services, propelling them to new heights. Whether helping students obtain their GEDs, study for citizenship exams, or pursue job-specific certifications, their services have left an indelible mark on our community, bringing great meaning, fulfillment, and empowerment to the lives of thousands. As we mark Literacy KC's 40th anniversary this year, I am proud to commemorate their work and champion their mission of literacy for all.

HONORING ROBERTO SMITH AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Roberto Smith has dedicated his career to advancing technology and improving lives within the community. With over two decades of experience in the information technology field, Roberto has been a driving force in implementing modern, secure, and efficient technological solutions.

Since beginning his IT career in 2001, Roberto has earned industry certifications in

computer networking and systems engineering, solidifying his expertise in designing, managing, and optimizing IT infrastructures. In 2012, he joined the City of St. Cloud as a network engineer, where his dedication and technical acumen led to his promotion to network manager and later, IT director.

As IT director, Roberto has spearheaded numerous initiatives that have enhanced the city's technological landscape. Under his leadership, the implementation of Microsoft 365 has provided city employees with robust collaboration tools, improving efficiency and communication across departments. The adoption of Cloud-based Phone System has modernized the city's communication systems, ensuring seamless connectivity for residents and city staff alike.

Recognizing the importance of cybersecurity in an increasingly digital world, Roberto has successfully introduced Multifactor Authentication (MFA) and Zero Trust Network frameworks to safeguard city systems and protect sensitive data. These innovations have strengthened cybersecurity measures, ensuring that residents' information remains secure while allowing for safer, more resilient digital services.

Roberto's vision extends beyond technology—it is rooted in a commitment to empowering the community through innovation. His work has streamlined city operations, enhanced digital accessibility for residents, and reinforced security in public services. His dedication to improving lives through technology exemplifies the values celebrated during Caribbean American Heritage Month, making him a deserving honoree recognized for his outstanding contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ABRAHAM J. HAMADEH

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, due to attending a funeral, I was unable to be present for Roll Call No. 156 on H.R. 2966, the American Entrepreneurs First Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 156—H.R. 2966, American Entrepreneurs First Act.

HONORING ABISMAEL ABREU AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 20, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Abismael Abreu is a public servant, community leader, and proud Osceola County resident who has dedicated his career to building a stronger, more connected Central Florida.

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Mr. Abreu arrived in Osceola County at the age of 14. A graduate of Osceola High School, he has grown from a young immigrant student into a trusted leader in local government, demonstrating that with opportunity, hard work,