

Through the Epsilon Sigma Boulé Foundation, the fraternity has invested substantially in initiatives that serve the greater good—mentoring youth, increasing access to STEM education, supporting the performing arts in Title I schools, and providing college scholarships for deserving minority students. These actions reflect a commitment not only to excellence, but to ensuring equity and opportunity for all.

As the Epsilon Sigma Boulé celebrates a decade of excellence, we honor its enduring mission and the transformational impact it continues to have in Prince William County and beyond. They have exemplified principled leadership and civic responsibility, carrying forward the Fraternity's mission with purposeful action and a steadfast dedication to community advancement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the Epsilon Sigma Boulé of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and in celebrating the tremendous work this organization continues to do to strengthen our communities and shape the future of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained due to illness and was not able to cast my vote on Roll Call Nos. 172, 173, 174, 176, 177, and 178. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 172; YEA on Roll Call No. 173; NAY on Roll Call No. 174; YEA on Roll Call No. 176; YEA on Roll Call No. 177; and NAY on Roll Call No. 178.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT KEITH DEUTSCH

HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Sergeant Keith Deutsch, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Deutsch enlisted in the United States Army in the summer following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He rose through the ranks quickly, earning five promotions and receiving the Army Commendation Medal, the Bronze Star for Valor, and the Purple Heart.

In 2003, Keith was wounded by an enemy-fired rocket-propelled grenade while serving as an M249 SAW gunner. His squad leader, Staff Sergeant Mark A. Lawton, was killed in the same attack. Staff Sergeant Lawton died never having lost a Soldier under his command. He ran toward fire, shielded his Soldiers, and led from the front. A proud former Marine, the Army was Staff Sergeant Lawton's retirement position.

After recovering from his injuries, Keith helped pioneer the sport of adaptive snowboarding, competing on the World Cup Tour and in the Winter X Games using prosthetics developed with the Department of Veterans Affairs support.

Keith later returned to New Prague, Minnesota, and reopened his father's business, Ron's Cycle Shop, as a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business. Today, it supplies electric bicycles to government agencies under contracts with the State of Minnesota and the Department of Defense. He is also the founder of the New Prague Area Mountain Bike Park.

In October 2025, Keith will run both the Army Ten-Miler and the 50th Marine Corps Marathon as an above-knee amputee in honor of Staff Sergeant Mark A. Lawton.

Sergeant Deutsch's life and career is characterized by great personal sacrifice and exemplary service. He represents the best that this country has to offer. I thank him for his service and dedication to our country.

CELEBRATING THE TEN-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE OBERGEFELL MARRIAGE EQUALITY RULING

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the ten-year anniversary of Obergefell v. Hodges, a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that affirmed marriage equality nationwide on June 26, 2015. This ruling positively impacted the lives of millions of LGBTQIA+ Americans and serves as a significant milestone toward equal rights for all. I wish to honor the legacies of Jim Obergefell, his late husband John Arthur, and all the couples who brought the battle for marriage equality to the steps of the United States Supreme Court.

Furthermore, I would like to honor the incredible activists—Marsha P. Johnson, Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde and Harvey Milk—who played instrumental roles in fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights decades before this case reached the Supreme Court. To this day, their legacies inspire Americans to advocate, celebrate, and respect the differences we have as people to promote equal rights. It is fitting that this anniversary falls during Pride Month, a time to recognize the strength and perseverance of the LGBTQIA+ community as well as a call to action for equality.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration and extremist Republicans are attacking LGBTQIA+ rights around the country. These extremists are banning books that feature LGBTQIA+ characters from schools, eliminating the suicide prevention hotline for LGBTQIA+ individuals, rolling back civil rights protections, and undermining the health, military service, and education of LGBTQIA+ Americans. House Republicans recently passed a dangerous bill out of Committee that threatens to jail parents and doctors offering medically-affirming care to trans youth. Policymakers in Washington should not make private health decisions for Americans. LGBTQIA+ individuals are humans and deserve equal civil rights protections under the law, autonomy, and dignity. I reject extremist efforts to promote hate and harm based on who one loves or how they self-identify.

In the face of these intensified efforts to hurt LGBTQIA+ individuals, I promise to continue

to fight for equal rights for LGBTQIA+ Americans. We must protect same-sex marriages and civil rights laws for LGBTQIA+ individuals. We must enact the Equality Act that would amend the Civil Right Act of 1964 to prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. We must enact my bill—the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act—that would prohibit any entity that receives federal child welfare funds from discriminating against children, youth, or prospective adoptive or foster parents based on religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. I am committed to continuing to support legislation that protects the rights of LGBTQIA+ individuals because everyone deserves the right to be who they are, free from discrimination.

Celebration is an act of resistance. In the face of an administration that wants to reinvigorate injustice and discrimination against LGBTQIA+ people, it is essential to celebrate our country's landmark marriage equality ruling and Pride month and to commit ourselves to ensuring that "We the People" includes all Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote number 175 on H. Res. 537, Motion to Table, I mistakenly recorded my vote as no when I should have voted yes.

HONORING MS. JORDANA ZUBKOFF FOR HER SERVICE TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jordana Zubkoff for twenty years of outstanding service to this House in several administrative and support roles. She lives in Arlington, VA, and I am proud to represent her here in Congress.

Ms. Zubkoff is retiring after having lent her talents and skills to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for over twenty years. She started in the Immediate Office for the CAO in 2004, and has also worked for the Finance Immediate Office, Budget Planning and Analysis, and finally in the Office of Payroll and Benefits, starting in 2013.

Ms. Zubkoff has provided vast knowledge about payroll calculations and impeccable attention to detail; her reconciliations, tax calculations, and customer service in service to House offices and employees, has helped to ensure that their employees have been paid accurately while adhering to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and U.S. House of Representatives standards. Her expertise, experience, and courteous attentiveness enabled her to be an invaluable asset to the House of Representatives over the years. Ms. Zubkoff is well respected by her coworkers and colleagues.

Ms. Zubkoff is a big fan of traveling; she has gone on many trips over the years including Panama, Australia, and a surprise birthday cruise this year to South America. Her favorite souvenirs from these trips are jewelry made by regional artists with local materials. In her retirement, she plans to travel with her family, including her sister, niece, and nephew.

I congratulate Ms. Zubkoff, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her distinguished service to the House and the Nation it serves. I wish her all the best as she begins this new chapter in her life.

HONORING MR. ALNOLDO MOORE

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK"
FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Arnoldo Moore on his retirement from the Social Security Administration after 30 years of distinguished service.

Mr. Moore began his career in September 1994 as a Service Representative in Grand Rapids, Michigan, followed by assignments as both a Claims Representative and Management Support Specialist. In August 2003, Mr. Moore transitioned to Social Security Headquarters in Washington, D.C. serving as National Public Affairs Specialist, Human Resource Specialist, and Interactive Video Training (IVT) trainer, and Systems Analyst. While at headquarters, Mr. Moore was instrumental in developing and revising scripts for IVT broadcasts aired nationwide. He provided leadership and training to new employees on related programs. During his tenure in this role, Mr. Moore traveled the United States engaging with groups such as disability services organizations and Native American organizations. He prepared meetings for both the Commissioner and Acting Commissioner with White House staff to discuss Social Security Administration initiatives.

From August 2003 through April 2025, Mr. Moore served in the Chattanooga, Tennessee Field Office as a Public Affairs Specialist. In this role, Mr. Moore has served as constituent liaison to my office providing outstanding service and support both to my district staff and to my constituents.

Now, Arnoldo enters a new chapter in his life and is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Yaritza, and his children, Aniza and Alejandro, while continuing to serve in our community.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Arnoldo Moore for his many years of public service to our Nation and our community, and I wish him well in all new endeavors as he begins his retirement.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF COLONEL DEREK C. OAKLEY, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel

Derek C. Oakley on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, concluding an extraordinary career of over two decades in service to our Nation.

Colonel Oakley most recently served as Commander of the 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. Under his instrumental leadership, the 28th Bomb Wing, home to the largest operational B-1 combat wing, provided unmatched global strike capabilities and remained a vital part of our national defense.

Since commissioning through Officer Training School in May 2000, Colonel Oakley's record of service has been marked by excellence, professionalism, and an unshakable commitment to duty. Over the course of his distinguished career, he logged more than 3,400 flight hours, including 991 in combat. His career has spanned key leadership roles in operations, training, and strategic development.

He has commanded at multiple levels, served on the Joint Staff, and played a vital role in the development of the B-21 Raider, shaping the future of American airpower. His service has been recognized with many decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and multiple Air Medals.

On behalf of a grateful state and Nation, I thank Colonel Oakley for his decades of honorable service. We in South Dakota are proud to call him one of our own, and we wish him and his family all the best as they begin this new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the remarkable career and retirement of Colonel Derek C. Oakley.

HONORING DR. CRAIG
WITHERSPOON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career and lasting contributions of a visionary educator and leader—Dr. Craig Witherspoon. Over nearly four decades in public education, including ten transformative years as Superintendent of Richland County School District One in Columbia, South Carolina, Dr. Witherspoon has been a tireless champion for student achievement, equity, and innovation. His work has elevated not only the schools he served, but the communities they anchor.

Dr. Witherspoon began his career as an instrumental music teacher and steadily rose through the ranks as a principal, instructional leader, and superintendent, with service in four states—Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, and South Carolina. He took the helm of Richland One in 2015, leading a diverse, urban-suburban-rural district serving more than 22,000 students and employing 4,000 educators and staff.

Under his leadership, Richland One became a statewide and national model of innovation. The district launched South Carolina's first Virtual School Program for high school students, as well as the state's first high school commercial driver's license (CDL) training program and firefighter training program. It was also the

first in the state to offer all 16 nationally recognized career clusters and establish a certified pre-apprenticeship program. His focus on early childhood education expanded pre-K access and launched the "ThriveRichland" initiative for school readiness.

Dr. Witherspoon guided the district through the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, implementing a comprehensive reopening plan to ensure students could return safely to in-person instruction. Throughout his tenure, the district intensified family engagement, boosted graduation rates beyond the state average, and received system-wide accreditation with top-tier evaluation scores.

He also prioritized summer learning through the district's Summer SOAR program and oversaw over \$30 million in federal magnet school grants, as well as major investments in school facilities—from upgraded athletic stadiums to new academic wings focused on culinary arts, Montessori, and language immersion.

Dr. Witherspoon's leadership was recognized with numerous awards, including 2024 Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators, 2022 Superintendent of the Year by the S.C. Athletic Administrators Association, and Administrator of the Year by several professional education associations. Under his guidance, the district and its schools received a remarkable list of accolades—from National Blue Ribbon recognition to national awards for health, energy conservation, and inclusive education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the extraordinary service of Dr. Craig Witherspoon. His career exemplifies the power of education to transform lives and communities. He leaves behind a legacy of vision, integrity, and excellence that will continue to shape South Carolina's future for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF THE
IT'S ABOUT THE KIDS MENTOR
PROGRAM

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in Texas' 30th Congressional District, It's About the Kids Mentor Program, a community organization committed to empowering families and youth in Dallas, Texas. With a mission "to focus on the kids of today, which will strengthen our youth of tomorrow who will become the adults of the future," It's About the Kids provides impactful programs that center around youth mentorship, community service, literacy advancement, professional development, and contributing significantly to the well-being and growth of families in our community. By focusing on these initiatives, participants can develop the necessary skills needed to thrive today.

Founded in 2001 by Baldwin and Crystal Hamilton, It's About the Kids Mentor Program began outreach in Marietta, Georgia, then following the Hamiltons' move to Dallas in 2012, they expanded their reach to Dallas and most recently have expanded to Shreveport in 2024. The Hamiltons have intentionally poured