

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF OFFICER DORELLE C. BRANDON

**HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a Chicago Police Department hero, Officer Dorelle C. Brandon. Officer Brandon was tragically killed in the line of duty 40 years ago, marking the first time in our city's history that a female officer laid down her life in the line of duty. As we reflect on her life and legacy, I want to pay tribute to her selfless service and commitment to our beloved Chicago.

Born in Chicago on December 27, 1948, to Charles and Dolores Brandon, Dorelle attended St. Joachim Grammar School and graduated from Harlan high school. After graduation, she was appointed to the Chicago Police Department on February 27, 1978, following in her father's footsteps. Throughout her tenure she earned three department commendations, a unit meritorious performance award, twenty honorable mentions and two complimentary letters.

Officer Brandon served our city and community with courage, dedication, and compassion for five years. She was tragically taken from us on the morning of January 24, 1984. While serving undercover, Officer Brandon and her partner attempted to arrest a drug dealer. The suspect resisted arrest and began to struggle with Officer Brandon attempting to grab her service weapon. Her partner then opened fire on the suspect and unfortunately struck Officer Brandon on accident.

Her story and sacrifice remind us of the danger law enforcement officers face every day. As the first female officer of the Chicago Police Department to lay down her life in the line of duty, she was a tragic trailblazer who will forever be remembered for her selflessness and bravery.

Officer Brandon is survived by her devoted husband, Matthew, who first saw Dorelle while standing in line at the Chicago Police Academy in January of 1978. While he was waiting in line with a fellow officer, Matthew said "Do you see that girl over there? She's going to be my wife." After meeting, they became inseparable and shared a readily apparent love and devotion to one another that continues to this day.

Officer Brandon was a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. She is remembered by her husband, Matthew, daughter, Barbara Sharee Cannon, stepsons: Marvin Edward Brandon and Sean Scot Brandon, parents Charles and Dolore, stepfather, Norman White and her three brothers and five sisters.

This Friday, my fellow Chicagoans will gather to immortalize her sacrifice by naming the community room of the Chicago Police Department 3rd precinct office after her. I hope that her memory will continue to inspire others to public service and remind us of the great feats of heroism our brave officers perform on our behalf every day. May God continue to watch over them and keep them safe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Officer Dorelle C. Brandon's service and sacrifice.

HONORING JOHN CROMAN

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of John Croman, an extraordinary journalist and member of our community. Mr. Croman recently retired from his role as Chief Political Reporter for KARE 11 after nearly 30 years of dedicated service bringing reliable, informative, and timely political news to Minnesotans.

Mr. Croman attended the University of Kansas before moving to Minnesota to begin his career in reporting. He started at KARE 11 in 1997 as an investigative reporter and gravitated towards political reporting, where he would thrive for the rest of his career. He captivated audiences with his impeccable journalistic skills and his knack for making politics relatable. In his decades at KARE he covered major historical events, including the tragic loss of our late Senator Paul Wellstone, the 8-month recount of Minnesota's 2008 Senate election, and the legalization of same-sex marriage in Minnesota.

Those who worked closely with Mr. Croman admired his wealth of knowledge about Minnesota politics and history—they referred to him as "the contact, and the context," for every story. He was praised for his commitment to reporting on substantive policy rather than the fleeting trends of the moment, and his tireless dedication to the truth in his journalism.

Mr. Croman brought a unique flair to his work, often breaking into song and creating jingles for every occasion. He seized every opportunity to inject joy into his work and to share it with those around him, whether during marathon end-of-legislative-session nights, elections, or simply checking his microphone. He was also known for his dedication to his craft, often acting as his own cameraman and editor when working late or on days off, which he frequently did.

Chief Political Reporter John Croman embraced excellence, integrity, and passion for his work. His long and impactful career is a testament to his ability to communicate even the most complex issues to listeners and viewers around the state. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking him for his remarkable service and celebrating his well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE INDUCTION OF  
KARMA MASON INTO THE WICHITA  
STATE UNIVERSITY'S  
SHOCKER SPORTS HALL OF  
FAME

**HON. RON ESTES**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Karma Mason on her induction into Wichita State University's Shocker Sports Hall of Fame.

This award was presented to Karma in honor of her contribution to the Wichita State University Championship Bowling Team from

1975 to 1978. Her exceptional talent and leadership proved instrumental to her team's success as she led them to the first national collegiate championship, culminating in three national championship teams over the course of her time at WSU.

Karma is a highly accomplished bowler with an outstanding record. Some of her impressive bowling achievements include a 196 average tournament score and a high tournament score of 279. She demonstrated leadership, hard work and dedication to the sport as team captain and anchor bowler for three years straight, proving integral to her team's success.

Karma's recent Hall of Fame recognition is just one of her many accolades throughout her long and successful career, and she continues to make Kansas proud. On behalf of the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Kansas, I congratulate Karma.

H.R. 10438, CAPPING COSTS FOR  
CONSUMERS ACT OF 2024

**HON. KIM SCHRIER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to correct the record. At the end of the 118th Congress, we erroneously added Ms. UNDERWOOD as an original cosponsor to H.R. 10438. I would like the record to formally recognize that Congresswoman UNDERWOOD of Illinois is not an original cosponsor of H.R. 10438 from the 118th Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes yesterday due to an unavoidable emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 22, H.R. 165 Wounded Knee Memorial Act; and NAY on Roll Call No. 23, Passage of S. 5 Laken Riley Act.

HONORING THE LIVES OF NEIL  
AND SANDI BROOKS

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn a devastating loss in eastern Connecticut, with the passing of a beautiful married couple—Dr. Neil Brooks and his wife Sandi (Silverman) Brooks of Vernon, Connecticut. Neil Brooks passed away sadly and suddenly on November 27, 2024, at age 82. He was joined less than a month later when the love of his life, Sandi, passed away unexpectedly at age 81 on December 24, 2024. Neil and Sandi's longtime marriage was truly a masterpiece that their offspring, friends, and community will forever cherish in their hearts.

Neil was born in Manchester, Connecticut to Abner and Lenore Brooks on November 17,

1942. Neil was raised in the Rockville section of Vernon, Connecticut, where his father was very active in the community in town working for a local textile company, Amerbelle Corporation, and personally raising money for the super-sized Horowitz Community Pool that generations of Vernon kids have learned to swim at—including my two children. Abner's example made a big impact on Neil's outlook on helping people and being involved in efforts to improve life for his neighbors. Neil attended Rockville High School, and then pursued his passion to study medicine, attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Hahnemann Medical School. After this, Neil came back to Rockville to practice family medicine. As a trusted doctor in the greater Rockville area, he cared for many thousands of patients and families in times of crisis and healing.

Further down the East Coast, Sandi Silverman was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Lou and Mitzi Silverman on March 3, 1943. She grew up in the Philadelphia area, attending Germantown High School before studying at Temple University.

Although they grew up with lives in different places, the stars aligned when Neil and Sandi met at the wedding of mutual friends, and they were married on July 2, 1966. This was the start of a loving 58-year marriage. Neil and Sandi were partners in all aspects of life, and nothing was more important to them than spending time with family and friends. They were known as a loyal, dependable couple, always providing support in whatever way necessary. In their free time, Neil enjoyed golfing and watching movies with friends and Sandi was known as a fantastic cook who loved to feed and entertain family and friends.

Sandi joined Neil in Rockville, Connecticut, where he devoted his career as a physician to providing the highest standard of care to his patients and community. As if his work in family medicine was not all-consuming, Neil also served as the President of both the Connecticut and American Academies of Family Physicians, President of his synagogue, Medical Director at Vernon Manor, and in leadership roles at Rockville Hospital and the American Medical Association. His work involved lots of medical conferences and political work, which Sandi supported diligently, traveling all across the country.

Despite their busy schedules, Neil and Sandi always prioritized the relationships in their lives—between each other, family, friends, and anyone else who crossed their paths. I had the privilege to know them as friends and supporters in my political campaigns—which always came with lots of passionate ideas and opinions that I always learned from. Usually, those exchanges took place in a New York-style delicatessen in Vernon, with Neil and his morning coffee group solving the world's problems.

At both memorial services, their son David Brooks found the inner strength to speak powerfully and eloquently about the rich family life Neil and Sandi created. The crowds in attendance were visible evidence of the deep impact they made in so many lives. While we mourn the loss of these incredible individuals, we can take solace in the knowledge that they have been reunited with each other. And, as David stated, they left many memories that are blessings for those of us who knew them. Neil and Sandi are survived by their son David and his wife Jen as well as their granddaughter

Emma, who is following in Neil's footsteps and studying to be a physician's assistant. They are also survived by nieces, nephews, and grandnieces. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Neil and Sandi Brooks and their amazing life story.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF MOTHER ALICE HILLIARD

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**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of Mother Alice Hilliard, a remarkable woman who lived a life defined by faith, resilience, and selfless service. Born on March 24, 1921, her life was a testament to strength, love, and devotion to her family, community, and church.

Alice attended Wooden City School in Lewisville and accepted Christ at an early age, joining Union Hill Baptist Church under the leadership of J.H. Wyatt. In 1942, she relocated to Richmond, California, where she took on a historic role during World War II. Alice joined the workforce at the Kaiser Shipyard, stepping into roles traditionally held by men serving in the military. Her hard work and dedication earned her the distinguished title of "Rosie the Riveter," and she was later featured in the book "Staging Migrations Toward An American West" by Marta Effinger-Crichlow, highlighting her contributions during this pivotal time in American history.

After working at the shipyard, Alice continued her professional journey at the Dole Cannery and Aebi Nursery, where she eventually retired. However, her life's work extended far beyond her career. Alice had a passion for gardening, especially tending to her beloved rose bushes, traveling with her family, sewing, and cooking. She also faithfully served her community as a member of Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Richmond for over 70 years. She was deeply involved in numerous church auxiliaries, including the Women's Mission Union and Baptist Training Union, and served as Chair of the Kitchen Committee. Her dedication to her church family was unwavering.

Mother Alice Hilliard's 103 years were marked by a life of faith, perseverance, and selfless love. She was an inspiration to all who knew her, and her legacy will live on in the hearts of her family, friends, and community. Today, I honor her remarkable life and extend my deepest condolences to all who mourn her passing. May her memory be a blessing to us all. I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Ms. Hilliard's loved ones. I know they and the people of California's 8th Congressional district join me in celebrating her life and legacy.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF VIETNAM VETERAN SERGEANT ROYAL EDWARD NEELEY

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 23, 2025*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of U.S. Army veteran Royal "Roy" Edward Neeley.

A former Green Beret with the 1st Special Forces Command, Airborne, Sergeant Neeley was born on April 8, 1948, in Los Angeles to Charles and Mary Neeley. He passed away October 12, 2024, at age 76.

Although he lost his mother at an early age, Roy enjoyed his youth growing up in Los Angeles with his two sisters. A graduate of Fremont High School, he was an avid sports fan and music lover.

On October 23, 1967, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan. As a radio operator and a Green Beret, his unique skill set made him and his fellow soldiers in the Army Airborne's 1st Special Forces Command one of the most adaptable and capable forces in the United States military, poised to protect the Nation's interest across the globe at a moment's notice.

Sergeant Neeley was honorably discharged from the Army in October 1970. Two years later he married Elaine McDonald on December 2, 1972, in a private family service in Las Vegas.

The wedding reception was memorable because the newlyweds and guests celebrated both the nuptials and Anthony Davis' six touchdown run that helped the University of Southern California clinch a 45–23 win over Notre Dame. The day was a win-win for Roy and Elaine, who would enjoy 52 years of marriage.

Roy was totally immersed in his work as an operations manager with Tanne Apparel, Value City Department Stores, Liz Claiborne, and Hybrid Apparel. These ventures took him and the family to Ohio and Alabama.

Service and loyalty were always part of his everyday life. At all of the McDonald-Neeley Family events, there wasn't a bid whist game he wouldn't play rise and fly. He never missed an opportunity to play golf with his brothers-in-law Bobby and Billy McDonald. Even if it meant being late to a family function, the links with Bobby and Billy came first.

Memories of Roy will be cherished by his family, including his wife, Elaine; sons Aaron Paul Neeley and Craig Edward Neeley; daughter-in-law, Alexis Neeley; grandchildren Nia Phillips, Nicolas Neeley, Ian Neeley, Brenden Neeley, Brennah Neeley, Maddox Anderson, Royce Neeley, and soon-to-be Scarlett Neeley; countless nieces and nephews; and his best friend Bud Feldman.

Roy will be remembered for his cheerful smile, strong positive attitude, and dedication to providing for his family.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Royal Edward Neeley, one of our Nation's most esteemed veterans, who lived a life of honor and service to his family, community and country.