

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FIREFIGHTERS AT THE RICHMOND FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. JENNIFER L. MCCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of courageous Virginians who demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service and persevered through adversity to open doors for future generations. On July 1, 1950, the City of Richmond hired ten African-American men to serve in the Richmond Bureau of Fire, making them the first Black career firefighters in both the city and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

I recognize and commend these trailblazers: Charles L. Belle, William Brown, Douglass O. Evans, Harvey Hicks, Warren W. Kersey, Bernard C. Lewis, Farra Lucas, Arthur L. Page, Arthur C. St. John, and Linwood M. Wooldridge.

Their arrival formed the first all-Black unit in Richmond's segregated fire department. Although these men met all the qualifications, the department subjected them to unequal treatment, including segregated facilities, extended training periods, and limited chances for promotion. Despite holding college degrees and completing superior training, the men of Engine Company No. 9 worked exclusively at a single station at Fifth and Duval Streets, in the heart of Richmond's Black business and residential district.

These men trained as a unit and held higher qualifications than many of their white peers, yet the department consistently denied them equal opportunities for advancement. They waited years for the department to recognize their promotional exam results. Mr. Charles L. Belle passed the lieutenant's exam in 1956 but didn't receive a promotion until 1967, after he retook the test ten more times. Several other men overcame similar barriers to advance their careers: Harvey S. Hicks earned promotions to Lieutenant in 1955 and Captain in 1961; Linwood M. Wooldridge became a Lieutenant in 1956; Oscar L. Blake advanced in 1959; and Arthur L. Page earned the rank of Lieutenant in 1961.

These brave men faced discrimination on and off duty. Many times, homeowners forced them to use back entrances or refused them entry when they responded to emergencies. Despite these challenges, they served with dignity, courage, and professionalism. Their presence uplifted Richmond's Black community, where they actively participated in faith-based, civic, fraternal, and social institutions.

In 1963, the Richmond Fire Department finally began to desegregate six of its 28 companies. Although the city demolished Engine Company No. 9 in 1968, its legacy endures. In 1992, former members of that unit founded Engine Company No. 9 and Associates Inc. to preserve and share their history. On July 1, 2000, the City of Richmond honored the 50th anniversary of its hiring by installing a Virginia State Historic Highway Marker—Marker Number SA-54—at the corner of Fifth and Duval Streets.

These men were more than firefighters. They were pioneers who paved the way for

equity in public safety. I rise to honor their memory and the legacy of courage, service and perseverance that continues to inspire generations of public servants across the Commonwealth.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GLORIA KAY MAZZA

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life and legacy of Gloria Kay Mazza of Clive, Iowa, who passed away on July 1, 2025. A small-town Iowan with a world-class heart, Gloria's unwavering strength and resilience in the face of cancer inspired all who knew her.

Born on February 17, 1953, in rural Iowa, Gloria was the embodiment of Iowan values. She married her beloved husband, Tom Mazza, who became a stepfather to their daughter, Kelly. She cherished her role as grandmother to Cassidy, James, and Lilly, finding joy in their laughter and endless antics.

Gloria lived her life as "just a country girl." She served the people of Iowa with distinction as Iowa Outdoor Skills Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources, empowering young women through the Outdoor Skills Journey for Girls program and championing education and conservation with her characteristic passion.

In her hometown of Clive, Gloria was an active member of the Parks and Recreation Board. Her dedication to public service extended into the political sphere, where she volunteered first as office manager for the Republican Party of Polk County before serving as its Chairwoman from 2021 to 2025.

Her tireless contributions were deeply impactful with leadership roles at every level, including as President of the Capitol Region Republican Women and President of the Iowa Federation of Republican Women, where she also served on subcommittees for the National Federation of Republican Women.

Gloria was also a dedicated volunteer in numerous Federal, State, and local campaigns and initiatives, including her statewide signature idea, "Build the Base," emphasizing that all politics is local and getting everyday Iowans involved in grassroots organizing. Her exemplary service earned her multiple awards and accolades from the Republican Party.

Gloria Mazza will be remembered as a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, public servant, and patriot. Her legacy of leadership and service to both Iowa and our Nation will endure. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her memory and her impact, which will surely endure for years to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CARLA REYNOLDS FOGELMAN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to

Ms. Carla Reynolds Fogelman, affectionately known to all as Carla. Carla was born on December 17, 1961, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and was a dedicated advocate, passionate public servant, and beloved family member. With profound sadness, we honor Carla following her passing on July 8, 2025.

Carla made it her mission to be an agent of positive change wherever she could, and she had excelled remarkably in that endeavor. Carla was an unwavering advocate, activist, event organizer, humanitarian, and beacon of hope for all in our community, especially for those facing adversity. Through the Boots on the Ground Foundation, which she founded in 2021 alongside Danyelle Eckert, Carla worked relentlessly to provide vital resources and support to anyone in need. Whether collecting food, toiletries, and other necessities, distributing holiday meals and gifts, assisting seniors, providing financial and peer-based recovery support, or organizing community and family-driven events, Carla had created an organization that served as a vital lifeline and incredible resource for individuals and families in our community in need of assistance. Carla is also responsible for spearheading Bristol Borough's annual Unity Day celebration.

It is through the work of people like Carla Reynolds that our communities thrive, and our Nation grow stronger. Her service, given without expectation of recognition, stood as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can positively ripple through the lives of many, sparking change, fostering resilience, and inspiring hope. We remember Carla not just for her remarkable deeds but for who she is, a true hero in every sense of the word.

In addition to her professional and community involvement, Carla had a vibrant array of interests. She had an eye for beauty and a flair for the dramatic, which she expressed through her enjoyment of modeling and fashion. Her adventurous spirit led her to travel and explore the world, yet she found equal joy in the simple pleasure of shopping or spending quality time with loved ones.

Above all, Carla is cherished by her family. She is survived by her loving daughter, Tamara Monroe (Shon), and her beloved grandchildren, Naya, Matthew, Shawn Thomas, Patricia, and Camille. Her memory will also be treasured by her siblings, Ronald Reynolds (Shiela) and Dawn Reynolds King (Anthony), and her nephews, Tyler, Brooklyn, and RJ, who will all miss her deeply. Carla's legacy is characterized by her loving nature, her kindness, and her friendly demeanor. She had the rare ability to make everyone feel like family, and her presence was a source of joy and comfort to those who had the privilege of knowing her.

Mr. Speaker, as we say farewell to Carla Reynolds Fogelman, we celebrate a life beautifully lived and deeply loved. Her spirit will continue to inspire all who knew her, and her contributions to the world will be long remembered. As a woman who served her community and loved her family, it is with deep respect that I honor her memory today. I send my heartfelt condolences to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

HONORING JACQUELINE BROWN

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jacqueline Brown, who served as my Suburban Director, Grant Coordinator, and Constituent Services Manager from 1999 to 2001. Jackie passed away on July 1, 2025, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to her family and loved ones. Jackie was a key member of my original Congressional District Office staff and was instrumental in developing the constituent services operation my office is well-known for today, over 25 years later.

Jackie helped develop the position of Grants Coordinator to assist organizations and businesses in researching, applying for, and securing government loans, grants, and other funding opportunities. She identified more than \$10 million in federal grant opportunities for groups in the district and advocated with federal agencies to help bring those funds to the 9th Congressional District.

Jackie utilized her excellent networking and community relations skills to help build relationships and solve problems for constituents. She developed solid relationships with many entities and organizations throughout the district and helped establish the broad network of organizations and partners that my office continues to engage with on policy and community issues even today.

She excelled at connecting with and advocating for constituents who needed help. Jackie used her problem-solving skills and worked with federal agencies to cut through bureaucracy and red tape and successfully advocate for people in need. She was resourceful, thorough, and compassionate. Her advocacy during her time in my office helped improve the lives of many constituents, and her management of constituent service operations meaningfully strengthened our services throughout the district.

Jackie also organized events, conducted outreach, and represented me when I was unable to attend events throughout the district. In addition, she worked as a strong liaison to the small business community, helping foster collaboration and support.

Jackie was cheerful, outgoing, compassionate, and personable. She was an important part of my original team, and she had an enormous impact on so many people.

On behalf of the residents of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I want to recognize Jacqueline Brown for her service on their behalf. She will be dearly missed, and I hope she rests in peace.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
OBERLIN HIGH SCHOOL'S GIRLS
4X100 METER RELAY TEAM FOR
WINNING THE DIVISION III
STATE TRACK AND FIELD TITLE**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special

tribute to an outstanding high school track and field relay team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young women of the Oberlin High School's 4x100 Meter Relay team have represented their school ably on their way to achieving the Division III State Track and Field Title. The team overcame the challenges posed by intense competition in their effort to surpass all other relay teams in their event.

In pursuing the State Championship, Alyssa Webb, Jasmine McDearmon, Aubrey Abeyta, and Cayman Noble defeated their outstanding competitors to win with an impressive time of 49.24 seconds. The members of this very special team have shown that their sport requires an individual effort for a team result. Their hard work and dedication, both on and off the track, in achieving this accomplishment should be commended.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Oberlin High School Girls 4x100 Meter Relay team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

**RECOGNIZING MR. ETHAN
ALBRIGHT FOR HIS ACHIEVE-
MENT IN LOCAL AND INTER-
NATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR**

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Mr. Ethan Albright of Hempfield High School for his achievement of third place in the 'Material Science' category at the 2025 Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair, a competition including 1,700 students and representing over 60 countries.

Mr. Albright, a rising senior at Hempfield High School in Lancaster County, was also the Division Champion at the 2025 North Museum Science and Engineering Fair. Mr. Albright is the first North Museum Science & Engineering champion to win an award in international competition since 2017.

In both competitions, his project centered on experimenting with and designing fully biodegradable fishing lures as an eco-friendly, cost-effective replacement for plastic lures. The worm-shaped lure, made from a biopolymer recipe, could substitute for traditional soft plastic lures which can break off hooks and sink to the bottom of waterways. Mr. Albright cites his early memories of swimming and fishing on the Susquehanna River with his father as the driving motivation for his desire to keep our community's waterways clean and plastic-free.

I want to congratulate Mr. Albright on his achievement at the local and international level, and to recognize the hard work, dedication, and innovative spirit that went into his project. As a fisherman myself, I am grateful for Mr. Albright's contributions to solving the pollution issue. I wish him continued success in his studies and pursuits.

**RECOGNIZING JENNIE FREGOSO
AND HER DISTINGUISHED MILI-
TARY CAREER**

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Major Jennie Marie Fregoso for her outstanding 25 years of service in the United States Army. From May 2000 to July 2025, Major Fregoso exemplified the Army's core values of duty, honor, and selfless service, leaving a lasting impact on every unit she served with.

Major Fregoso began her career as a Medical Logistics Specialist with the 349th General Hospital and later served with distinction in the 349th Combat Support Hospital and the 349th Field Hospital. Throughout her career, she held key roles including Executive Officer, S1, S3, S8, Projects Manager, and Conversion Coordinator. Her versatility and leadership were pivotal during the transformation of the 349th Combat Support Hospital into the 349th Field Hospital and 380th Hospital Center, and she was personally commended for her performance as Battle Captain during CSTX.

During her 2004 to 2005 deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Major Fregoso served at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, took part in a humanitarian mission in El Salvador, and led a cost-saving initiative that saved the Army over \$600,000. She completed key leadership courses and earned multiple awards, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Major Jennie Marie Fregoso's service has strengthened the operational readiness of the Army Reserve medical community and shaped the careers of countless soldiers. Her legacy is one of dedication, leadership, and unwavering professionalism. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her exceptional career and in wishing her continued success and fulfillment in retirement.

**RECOGNIZING COLONEL ERNEST R.
"BOBBY" SCHMITT**

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the exceptional service of Colonel Ernest R. "Bobby" Schmitt, Commander of Mission Delta 4 at Buckley Space Force Base, as he prepares to depart from his post in Colorado. Colonel Schmitt's dedication, leadership, and commitment to our Nation's defense have been truly exemplary.

During his tenure as Commander of Mission Delta 4, Colonel Schmitt has overseen critical operations and initiatives vital to our national security. His strategic vision and unwavering resolve have significantly enhanced the capabilities and readiness of the unit, ensuring the United States maintains its strategic advantage in the space domain.

Colonel Schmitt's leadership has fostered a culture of excellence and innovation within Mission Delta 4. He has consistently inspired