

HONORING MS. YOLANDA AMADEO

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished scholar, passionate community advocate, and dedicated educator, Ms. Yolanda Amadeo, who celebrated her 30th anniversary as Chief Meteorologist at WALB-TV in Albany, Georgia, on June 15, 2025.

Ms. Amadeo graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science in Atmospheric Sciences and also earned a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communications from Florida State University. She proudly holds the prestigious American Meteorological Society's (AMS) Seal of Approval and has contributed extensively to the AMS community. Her service includes roles on the Broadcast Board of the AMS, the AMS Board on Pre-College Education, and the AMS Minority Scholarship National Committee.

Throughout her career, Ms. Amadeo has been recognized with numerous accolades. In 2012, she received the Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Award from the Albany King Day Committee, as well as the Women of Purpose Award. In 2010, the Georgia Association of Broadcasters honored her with an Honorable Mention for Best Weather Reporting. She is also a recipient of the 2007 National Mark Trail Award, recognizing her efforts to promote weather safety through the use of weather radios. That same year, I had the privilege of awarding her a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for her outstanding achievements, dedicated service, and public distinction. Furthermore, U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson acknowledged her important work educating the public on the life-saving role of NOAA Weather Radios during severe weather. In 2004, Ms. Amadeo was celebrated as one of Southwest Georgia's "Steel Magnolias" at the Women Making Magic Event.

Perhaps most inspiring is her dedication to mentoring aspiring meteorologists. She cherishes the relationships she has built through sharing her expertise, providing guidance, and offering both motivational and emotional support. Yolanda is deeply committed to the success of those seeking career advice. Beyond her professional work, she actively shares her passion for meteorology with the community by educating students on the science of weather forecasting and promoting weather safety at civic and social events.

Ms. Amadeo's community involvement extends to her volunteerism with the Southwest Georgia Chapter of the American Red Cross, where she has served as both a volunteer and board member. She is also an active member of St. Teresa's Catholic Church, serving as a lector and member of the Parish Council, and volunteers at St. Clare's Soup Kitchen, helping those in need within our neighborhood.

As former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm wisely said, "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy here on this earth." In celebrating Ms. Amadeo's 30 years as Chief Meteorologist, it is clear she has paid her rent and paid it well. Her unwavering commitment to informing and uplifting her community is truly commendable, and both Albany and the state of Georgia are stronger and safer because of her.

Yolanda's many accomplishments would not have been possible without the grace of God and the steadfast love and support of her family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's Second District, in recognizing and commending Ms. Yolanda Amadeo for 30 remarkable years as Chief Meteorologist at WALB-TV, and in wishing her many more years of success and service.

THANKING RICHARD "DICK" MESSBARGER FOR HIS CAREER IN THE GREATER KINGSVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Mr. Richard Messbarger for his 32 years of invaluable service to the Greater Kingsville Economic Development Council (EDC).

Mr. Messbarger has displayed true dedication to his community. As an exemplary Texan, Mr. Messbarger received his bachelor's degree in English Language and Literature from St. Mary's University and master's degree from Texas A&I University Kingsville. Since then, he has dedicated his life to public service and ensuring the development of our community.

A veteran of the United States Navy, he became the 38th recipient of Naval Aviation Honorary Wings of Gold for his contribution to his community. As the founder and key member of the Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville Task Force, his commitment to his community has alleviated many concerns which made NAS Kingsville vulnerable to Base closures. His exemplary efforts have ensured that our military community in Kingsville is up to the highest standards of excellence. Mr. Messbarger is also the former president of the Kingsville Chapter of Navy League and the former Navy League National Director.

Mr. Messbarger is a proud recipient of the Sam Walton Business Leader Award. His exemplary work was further recognized when he received the Kingsville Citizen of the Year award in 2008. In 2013, he was the recipient of the Otis West Lifetime Service Award by the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Mr. Messbarger for his dedication, passion, service to our country and his many years of public service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM (BILL) THOMPSON BAGLEY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William (Bill) T. Baglietto who passed away on June 9, 2025, at the age of 96, after a remarkable life of public service, legal distinction, and civic leadership.

Born in San Francisco in 1928, Bill's early years were shaped by hardship. After his family faced bankruptcy during the Great Depression, they relocated to a cabin in Woodacre, California. From these humble beginnings, Bill's extraordinary work ethic and intellect carried him far. He worked his way through high school, college, and law school as a member of the Marin County Fire Department, ultimately graduating as valedictorian from the University of California, Berkeley in 1949. He earned his J.D. from Berkeley Law in 1952, where he served on the California Law Review—a foundation for what would become a distinguished legal career.

Bill practiced law for 63 years, including 35 years as a partner at Nossaman LLP. He became one of California's leading experts in business, water, transportation, and public policy law. Among his many legal contributions, he successfully defended First Amendment rights before the United States Supreme Court. His commitment to justice, transparency, and public accountability informed both his legal practice and his public service.

From 1960 to 1974, Bill represented Marin and Sonoma Counties in the California State Assembly. A moderate Republican and tireless advocate for civil rights, he received an outstanding voter rating from the NAACP throughout his legislative career. Notably, he authored landmark legislation on transparency including the California Public Records Act and the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act—cornerstones of open government in California.

Following his time in the Assembly, Bill was appointed by President Gerald Ford as the first chair of the newly created Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Under his leadership, the CFTC helped modernize and globalize the futures market. He traveled to Europe and Tokyo advocating for fair, well-regulated markets, and served on the Futures Industry Association Board of Directors. His public service extended to the California Transportation Commission, the Public Utilities Commission, and the University of California Board of Regents—each role reflecting his lifelong commitment to the public good.

Bill received numerous accolades throughout his life, including the UC Berkeley Alumnus of the Year award in 2002. But to those who knew him well, he will be remembered for his character: principled, pragmatic, and endlessly generous with his time and wisdom.

Bill is survived by his wife of 60 years, Diane; their children Lynn, Bill, Jr., Walter, Shana, and Tracy, and his grandchildren Nicholas, Julian, Nathaniel, Grant, and Layli.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Bagley embodied a rare blend of intellect, humility, and commitment to public service. He believed government could work to improve quality of life for everyone—and he worked tirelessly to prove it. I respectfully ask that you join me in honoring his enduring legacy and extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who had the privilege to know him.

HONORING KATIE DOUGLAS-POE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Katie Douglas-Poe, an accomplished

athlete, successful entrepreneur, and proud daughter of Indianapolis who continues to inspire Hoosiers across our state.

Katie's journey began on the Southside of Indianapolis at Perry Meridian High School. Her standout high school career led her to Purdue University, where she helped lead the Boilermakers to the 1999 NCAA National Championship. A two-time Big Ten Player of the Year and Academic All-American, Katie is known for her leadership, talent, and relentless work ethic both on and off the court.

In 2001, Katie was selected 10th overall in the WNBA Draft, launching a 14-year professional career that included multiple All-Star selections, All-WNBA honors, and most notably, a 2012 WNBA Championship with Indiana Fever. Her number 23 jersey was retired by the Connecticut Sun, a lasting tribute to her legacy in women's basketball.

Katie's success did not end when she left the court. She brought her competitive spirit and passion for service into business and community leadership. As the owner of several Orangetheory Fitness studios across Indiana, she has promoted health and wellness while creating jobs and opportunities. Through mentorship, media, and civic engagement, Katie continues to uplift the next generation of athletes and leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Katie Douglas-Poe for her extraordinary accomplishments, her commitment to Indiana, and her lasting impact on both sport and community. She embodies the heart, hustle, and spirit that make our state proud.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL'S
GIRLS 4X400 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 Coldwater High School's Girls 4x400 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, Audrey Alig, Lana Kaiser, Kiersten Keller, and Isabella Zahn defeated their outstanding competitors to win with an impressive time of 3:53.94. 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 Coldwater High School Girls 4x400 Meter Relay team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

HONORING HEATHER MILLETT

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Heather Millett, who has served with distinction as Legislative Director in both my state senate and congressional offices. Heather embodies the very best of public service. You will see from her educational background that for years she has been preparing for a career dedicated to serving the citizens of our great Nation. By earning her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science at Campbell University, her Master of Public Administration and Policy at American University, and continuing her education in law studies at Syracuse University College of Law, it becomes evident that Heather's long-term goal has been a passion to help improve the lives of others.

Heather's intelligence, integrity, and tireless work ethic have guided our legislative efforts with purpose and precision. Whether navigating the complexities of committee work, building coalitions across the aisle, or championing the priorities of our constituents, Heather has brought both strategic insight and deep compassion to every task.

Perhaps Heather's most important contribution to the people of North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District was after September 27, 2024, when Hurricane Helene made landfall in the peaceful and serene mountains of Western North Carolina. Without ever being asked, Heather took the initiative and went into overdrive, working tirelessly for several consecutive weeks, night and day, with no days off, to bring hope, resources, and life-saving assistance to tens of thousands of victims affected by this once-in-a-millennium weather event. Each day for several weeks, Heather authored and distributed vital emails to a devastated population to help them find food, water, shelter, locate missing loved ones, and understand which roads were open for escape, along with countless other pieces of helpful information for those seeking rescue. During this time, when I encouraged Heather to take a few days away with her family for some planned time months earlier, her response was, "District Eleven needs me now," and she continued for many weeks to absorb more and more of the recovery workload. She persisted for weeks, coordinating the efforts of FEMA, telecommunications companies, utility companies, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, local governments, our district team, individual constituents, and an endless list of others. Heather worked quietly behind the scenes out of the public's eye, but was chiefly responsible for the praise and accolades that my office received for our response to this natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, Heather Millett should always be recognized as a Hurricane Helene Hero, and I am honored to share these words to honor her unforgettable, lasting contribution and to express my deepest appreciation for her service to the people of Western North Carolina. As Legislative Director, Heather played a key role in shaping my office's policy agenda and making sure that the voices of the

people we serve were heard in Congress. Her expertise has made a meaningful and lasting impact on many Americans, especially in areas she cares most about, such as infrastructure projects, veterans' benefits and healthcare, voter integrity, economic development, and reducing regulations. Heather provided the genius behind many essential pieces of legislation, like the Equal Representation Act, the Promoting Resilient Buildings Act, the Justice for America's Veterans and Survivors Act, and many others. In just two and a half years working beside me, a new member of Congress, Heather has authored five pieces of legislation that have now become law—five phenomenal accomplishments, and I expect many other pieces of her work will soon become law. Another remarkable achievement of Heather's that leaves a lasting mark on history is her skillful and masterful navigation of the Congressional appropriations and grants processes to secure tens of millions of dollars for essential infrastructure and needs for NC-11. While the numerous buildings, dams, equipment, and other projects that will improve and save the lives of the people I represent may never bear her name, many of us will see them throughout our lives and know Heather played a key role in securing them.

On behalf of all of us, I thank Heather for her leadership, her loyalty, the example she has set, her steadfast service, and dedication to my district, as well as her lasting impact on the Congress of the United States. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and hope she takes with her pride in a job extraordinarily well done.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL
HERITAGE ACADEMIES

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2025

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate National Heritage Academies, or NHA as they are known, as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.

It is critical that every child, regardless of income, background, or zip code, has access to a quality education. National Heritage Academies delivers on this goal!

NHA prepares students from all walks of life for academic success while opening doors to trade schools, community colleges, and four-year universities.

Since 1995, National Heritage Academies has offered quality education opportunities to more than 60,000 K-12 students. NHA runs over 100 charter schools primarily in my home state of Michigan, but has also expanded into 8 additional states.

One of those schools in Michigan is Vanderbilt Charter Academy in Holland, Michigan, where I served on the board for 5 years. Charter schools provide families with a tuition-free alternative that offers greater choice in the education their children receive.

National Heritage Academies strives to put kids on a trajectory to reach their full potential and achieve success both in and out of the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating National Heritage Academies as they celebrate their 30th anniversary.