

and educational equity. Her parents were signatories on one of the petitions demanding equal facilities for Black students—part of the legal groundwork that lead to the *Briggs v. Elliott* case and, later, *Brown v. Board of Education*. As a result of their activism, the Gipson and DeLaine families endured brutal retaliation, including harassment by the Ku Klux Klan. Mrs. Gipson-McKnight was living with the DeLaine family when their home was set on fire by the KKK—an attack she miraculously survived. Undeterred, she continued her studies, walking miles along rural roads to reach a school bus stop after the community pooled its resources to restore a broken-down vehicle for student use.

Following her graduation, Mrs. Gipson-McKnight attended Allen University in Columbia, where she became the first in her immediate family to earn a college degree. She returned to Summerton to teach and serve as a school principal, but like many Black educators after *Brown v. Board*, she was unjustly dismissed due to white resistance to integration and the purging of civil rights activists. Mrs. Gipson-McKnight then moved to New York City, where she worked for nearly three decades in the city's Social Services agency.

Mrs. Gipson-McKnight married Harold McKnight in 1963, and they shared 53 loving years of marriage before his passing in 2019. In retirement, she has remained active as a family historian, storyteller, and traveler.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the 95th birthday of Mrs. Clara Gipson-McKnight. She is a living witness to some of the most consequential moments of the 20th century—and through it all, she has remained a steadfast believer in education, justice, and the power of community. May her legacy continue to inspire future generations for years to come.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF STEPHANIE PAPAGIANNIS

HON. MARLIN A. STUTZMAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary American who has resided for over 70 years in Indiana's 3rd District, Mrs. Stephanie Papagiannis, as she celebrates her 100th birthday on July 25, 2025. A century marked by perseverance, family, faith, and an enduring love for this country.

Born in 1925 in the village of Vishini now known as Vissinia, Stephanie grew up amid the political and cultural upheaval of Greek-occupied Macedonia. She witnessed firsthand the efforts to erase the language and customs of the native Macedonian people, yet she never lost her sense of identity or resilience.

In 1952, with incredible courage and hope, Stephanie left behind a war-torn Europe and emigrated to the United States with her young son, James, to reunite with her husband Peter in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Together, they built a new life grounded in hard work, community, and opportunity. The couple raised three children, and today, their family has grown including five grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Stephanie and Peter contributed meaningfully to the local community, opening two high-

ly regarded establishments; the Pontiac Rib Bar and Pete's Gateview Inn. Their restaurants were not just businesses they were gathering places that embodied their warmth and entrepreneurial spirit.

A proud member of Fort Wayne's Macedonian American community, Stephanie maintained strong ties to her heritage and faith through St. Nicholas Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral, founded by her relatives. Her life has served as a bridge between generations and is inspiring to all.

Mr. Speaker, as Mrs. Papagiannis celebrates her centennial surrounded by loved ones, we pay tribute to a remarkable woman whose story represents the very best of the American immigrant experience who lived the American dream. May her legacy continue to inspire, and may her next chapter be filled with joy and peace.

HONORING ED FEULNER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Ed Feulner, he has been appropriately eulogized for his steadfast promotion of modern conservatism. As a Reaganaut serving in the Department of Energy, 1981 to 1982, with Secretary Jim Edwards, I know firsthand "The Mandate" was instrumental in promoting free markets. The following is from the *National Review* on July 20th editorialized:

"In 1973 Ed Feulner and his friend Paul Weyrich co-founded the Heritage Foundation, the think tank that nurtured and spread many of the policies that informed the Reagan Administration. Its "Mandate for Leadership" policy compendium in 1980 became a guide for the Reaganauts out to change Washington.

"Under Feulner, the think tank also became known for short, fast policy summaries delivered to Members of Congress and staff in anticipation of votes. Turnover on Capitol Hill is rapid, and Heritage's missives were influential guides to policies developed on the right over many years.

"Like many Reagan-era conservatives, Feulner believed in a coalition built on the three-legged stool of free markets and a smaller government, strong national defense, and traditional views on social policy. He welcomed all factions of what was once called the "conservative movement," from libertarians to Russell Kirk traditionalists to neocons.

"For many years, the *Journal* worked with Heritage on the annual Index of Economic Freedom. The volume ranked countries around the world on various measures of economic liberty. Feulner was notable for believing in a strong U.S. presence in the world, and he was especially close to leaders in Taiwan and South Korea. As recently as the mid-2000s we can recall a delegation of Heritage scholars making the case to us that U.S. defense spending should be 5% of gross domestic product. Today it's closer to 3%, and heading lower under President Trump.

"Born outside Chicago in a German-American Catholic family, Feulner attended Regis College in Denver where he discovered conservative ideas. Barry Goldwater was an early political influence. "You have to choose between liberty and equality," Feulner told John Miller of *National Review*.

"I picked liberty." Each year he published an essay by thinkers who defined conservative principles.

"Feulner was Heritage president for 37 years and remained a trustee in retirement. The think tank has taken a sharp turn toward Trumpian populism in recent years. It opposes free trade and leans toward an isolationist foreign policy. It focuses less on ideas and more on supporting whatever President Trump does. Feulner wasn't always happy with Heritage's new direction, but he kept his misgivings private out of loyalty to the institution.

"As the years advance, it's clear that the late 1970s through the 1980s and 1990s was a unique period of conservative intellectual ambition. Ed Feulner's motto was "onward, always," reflecting his optimism about the durability of America's founding ideals. The young Republicans in Washington may not know it, but they are spending down the intellectual capital stockpiled by Ed Feulner and his generation."

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FRUITLAND PARK, FLORIDA

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the City of Fruitland Park, Florida. Known fondly as "The Friendly City", Fruitland Park is a historic and thriving community in Lake County, Florida.

On December 14, 1925, residents of the area gathered at the Casino building in Fruitland Park for the purpose of organizing a municipal government. With a shared vision for the future, the citizens voted to incorporate their town and officially adopted the name Fruitland Park. Less than two years later, in May of 1927, the city was formally chartered.

In 1925, Fruitland Park was home to just 417 residents, spread across a modest 3-square-mile area. As of May 2025, the city has grown to serve a population of roughly 9,015 across more than 7 square miles.

Today, Fruitland Park provides a full range of municipal services, including public safety through police and fire departments, essential infrastructure support via a robust public works department, access to clean water and sanitation utilities, and vibrant recreational and library services. These offerings reflect the city's deep commitment to enhancing quality of life for its residents.

Fruitland Park's natural beauty, small-town charm, and strong civic infrastructure make it a desirable location for retirees and families alike. Its development in recent years has been extraordinary, and its future continues to look bright with anticipated progress over the coming decade.

It is my privilege to honor and celebrate the City of Fruitland Park on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. May the next 100 years be as vibrant and prosperous as the first.

HONORING ATHENS WEED ON HIS
73RD BIRTHDAY

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life and profound contributions of Athens Weed, a distinguished veteran, dedicated professional, and tireless community activist. As he marks his birthday on July 24, 1952, we take this moment to honor his remarkable journey and enduring legacy.

Born in Chicago, Athens Weed emerged from working class family roots, shaped by the strong values instilled by his parents, including his stepfather. Taylor Pouncey, who notably served as an Illinois House Representative.

These early influences laid the foundation for a life dedicated to service and achievement.

Athens pursued higher education, attending both the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and Purdue University Calumet, before earning an Associate of Science degree from Olive Harvey College. His commitment to excellence and duty led him to serve our Nation with honor in the United States Navy, a pivotal experience in his life. A particularly proud moment in his distinguished military career was receiving his Dolphins Medal, qualifying him for Submarine Certification—a testament to his exceptional skill and dedication.

Following his commendable military service, Athens continued to contribute significantly to his community and Nation. He became a valued member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 134, showcasing his expertise and commitment to his craft. For many years, he also served the public through his employment with the Chicago

Transit Authority, ensuring essential services for countless citizens. Throughout his professional endeavors, Athens Weed consistently demonstrates his core values; always working to his strengths, ensuring the job gets done with precision, treating everyone with respect, and extending a helping hand to those who need it most.

Beyond his professional achievements, Athens Weed is a deeply engaged civic leader. He is a dedicated activist with Operation Breadbasket and Operation Rainbow PUSH, embodying the spirit of advocacy and community upliftment. His long-standing years of choir service further highlight his commitment to communal harmony and spiritual well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the exceptional life and ongoing accomplishments of Athens Weed, a true American patriot, a compassionate leader, and an inspiring individual whose dedication continues to enrich our Nation.