

who have devoted their summer to serving the people of California's 20th Congressional District. From my offices in Washington, D.C., and Bakersfield, California, these students have exhibited maturity well beyond their years, offering their time, talents, and energy to support my work in meaningful ways. Then contributions have been a powerful reminder of the potential and promise embodied by the next generation. At a time when many young Americans are contemplating their role in civic life, these interns chose to engage directly with purpose and passion.

As their summer internships come to a close, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Daniel Bazmi, Jake Dowell, Michael Edmonston, and Rafael Barrientos Posada for their contributions to my Washington, D.C., office, and to Penelope Campbell for her service in my Bakersfield, California office. Their hard work has been instrumental to my team's efforts, and I am confident that the experiences and lessons they've gained will guide them toward continued success in their future endeavors in public service. I look forward to seeing where their paths lead, and I hope those paths include a continued dedication to serving others.

RECOGNIZING RECARDINA "DINA" BOCCIPPIO'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Recardina Boccippio, also known as Dina, as she celebrates her 100th birthday this year. It is my pleasure to join Dina's family and friends in honoring the wonderful life she has led.

On September 16, 1925, Recardina DePalma was born to Dominick and Michelina DePalma in Port Reading, New Jersey where Dina resided for 21 years. On October 27, 1946, she married the love of her life Angelo Boccippio and in 1953, they purchased their forever home in Woodbridge, New Jersey. Her loved ones refer to her as a pleasure to be around and a true inspiration.

For 10 years, Dina worked at Flagstaff Foods and Liquors. For the next 35 years, Dina worked as a private secretary and head bookkeeper for the Mauro Family at Mauro Motors. Now retired, it is clear she is living her best life as she is happiest spending time with family and friends. In her free time, Dina enjoys watching game shows and soap operas and is always ready for her next hair and nail appointments. After many incredible years, Dina Boccippio's contagious positivity and kindness is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in wishing Dina Boccippio another year of good health and happiness she celebrates the milestone of her 100th Birthday.

RECOGNIZING ELEVATION BEER COMPANY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elevation Beer Company of Poncha Springs, Colorado, for winning a Bronze Medal from the World Beer Cup for their Coconut Oil Man brew.

The World Beer Cup, otherwise known as the "Olympics of Beer," evaluates beers from around the world and recognizes the top brewers and their beers. Founded in 2012 and nestled in the Heart of the Rockies, Elevation Beer Company produces seasonal Belgian ales, specialty brews, and barrel-aged beers that put a twist on traditional styles of brewing.

Small businesses like Elevation Beer Company help drive the local economy of Chaffee County and the state's economy. For both natives and visitors to Poncha Springs, Elevation Beer Company provides excellent service and beers, contributing to Colorado's leadership in producing outstanding craft brew.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Elevation Beer Company for this accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH'S 185TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend heartfelt congratulations to the congregation of First African Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, as they celebrate a remarkable 185 years of faith and community. This great occasion will be marked by a celebration at the church on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at the church in Columbus.

Founded in 1840 by enslaved individuals in the antebellum South, First African Baptist Church began in a building located at the corner of Third Avenue and Twelfth Street, just a few blocks from the Chattahoochee River. This sanctuary was previously used by First Baptist Church, which was established in 1829 as Columbus's first church.

Although founded by enslaved people, First African Baptist Church was initially pastored by white ministers during its first twenty-two years. Demonstrating a spirit of love and acceptance for all, regardless of race, the church welcomed anyone in Columbus seeking to worship. By 1858, the church had baptized 731 members—390 white and 341 black.

Throughout its history, the church relocated three times to accommodate a growing congregation alongside the development of Columbus. Its second location was a frame building at the corner of St. Clair and Front Streets, now known as Eleventh and Front. In 1881, the Georgia General Assembly granted land at Eleventh Street and Sixth Avenue, leading to the church's renaming as Six Avenue Baptist Church. This site is now occupied by Golden Foundry and Machine Company.

The current church home, located at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street, was established in 1915, at which time the church adopted its name, First African Baptist Church. Today, as we celebrate its 185th Anniversary, the legacy of this congregation stands as a testament to its resilience and commitment to faith. Over the years, the church has undergone several renovations, reflecting its evolving mission. Under the leadership of Reverend Roderick B. Green and his dynamic wife and First Lady, Lynn Hall-Green, First African Baptist Church continues to grow, driven by a vision of holistic transformation and continual improvement in Christ.

The scripture tells us in Matthew 16:18 that Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it."

The story of First African Baptist Church, which began with a small group of devoted worshippers 185 years ago, is truly inspiring. It embodies the dedication and perseverance of a congregation that has put its love and trust in the Lord through both joyful and challenging times.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring First African Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia, for its rich history of faith, unity, and service to the community, as they continue to come together to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

HONORING 70 YEARS OF THE LAND OF MAKE BELIEVE

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and celebrate the Land of Make Believe, an amusement park that has been an important landmark of the Hope Township, New Jersey community, for over seven decades. Since its founding in 1954 by Herman Maier, the park has remained family-owned and operated, with the Maier family upholding the same high standards of excellence and service that have defined it from the beginning. Today, Christopher Maier, Herman's son and the park's current owner, attributes its enduring success to a commitment to affordability, safety, and family-centered fun. As we mark the park's 71st anniversary, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this beloved institution and its legacy. I look forward to seeing it continue to bring joy to generations of families for years to come.

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF THE IRIS NETWORK

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable organization in my state that has been providing essential services and advocacy for individuals with vision impairment and blindness for 120 years. The Iris Network is one of Maine's oldest and most respected nonprofit agencies, known for its

steadfast commitment to accessibility, independence, and empowerment.

Founded in 1905 as the Maine Institution for the Blind, with the support of Helen Keller, the organization initially focused on teaching trades to help blind and visually impaired individuals enter the workforce. Over time, its mission has evolved to offer comprehensive training programs that meet people where they are—equipping them with the skills and confidence to live independently. These programs cover a wide range of daily life skills, from kitchen safety to technology use. The Iris Network offers services at its Portland facility and travels throughout the state to support individuals in their homes. Further, they offer holistic guidance to assist organizations businesses, and employers in making their environments welcoming and equitable. Their dedication to accessibility can be found in every aspect of their work.

In addition to its training programs, The Iris Network operates a thriving residential community. In 2006, they opened Iris Park Apartments, a Level I assisted living facility that now serves over thirty residents. Iris Park offers a safe, supportive, and empowering environment where technology is thoughtfully integrated, appliances are adapted with sensory guides, and community-building activities—like braille bingo—foster connection and independence.

The Iris Network exemplifies the positive impact that comes from uplifting others. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to The Iris Network for 120 years of dedicated service and for improving the lives of countless Mainers. Their leadership, compassion, and unwavering commitment to accessibility deserve our deepest admiration and commendation.

RECOGNIZING EVERGREEN FIRE/ RESCUE

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Evergreen Fire/Rescue for receiving the Mission Lifeline Emergency Medical Service Gold Award from the American Heart Association for a third consecutive year.

This prestigious award recognizes agencies with an outstanding ability to quickly recognize a heart attack or stroke and provide high-quality care. In these high-pressure cardiac situations, timely care from an EMS team can be the difference between life and death.

Since 2014, Evergreen Fire/Rescue (EFR) has been honored with this award four times. EFR Chief Dave Montesi attributes the team's success to their experienced paramedics, most of whom have more than 20 years of experience in the field. Evergreen's rural geography presents unique challenges in emergency situations, as the local hospital is located miles away from most residents. EFR's quick responses consistently make a real difference when other help isn't always readily available, and we are grateful for their life-saving service to our community.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Evergreen Fire/Rescue on their 3rd consecutive Mission Lifeline EMS Gold

Award. We thank them for the exceptional care they provide to the people of Evergreen and the countless lives they have saved.

RECOGNIZING THE OPENING OF THE CAMBODIAN EXPERIENCE: OUR JOURNEY TO AMERICA, FINDING FREEDOM AT THE HAGGIN MUSEUM IN STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

HON. JOSH HARDER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the opening of The Cambodian Experience: Our Journey to America, Finding Freedom at the Haggin Museum in Stockton, California. This exhibit documents the experiences of Cambodian Americans, tracing their journey from the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge regime to refugee resettlement and community building in the United States.

Developed and curated by the United Cambodian American Network (UCAN), a nonprofit organization based in Stockton, the exhibit presents a comprehensive narrative through oral histories, archival materials, artifacts, and multimedia storytelling. It highlights the contributions of Cambodian Americans and underscores the role of refugee communities in the broader American story.

Stockton, which became a major resettlement site during the 1980's and 1990's, is home to one of the largest Cambodian communities in the United States. This exhibit reflects the significance of the city as both a destination and a foundation for Cambodian American life.

Key contributors include Sophy Reese, President of UCAN and project manager; collaborating organizations such as the Khmer Language Arts and Culture Academy and A Khmer Buddhist Foundation; and survivors and descendants who provided firsthand accounts and materials for display. The Haggin Museum provided exhibition space, curatorial support, and logistical coordination for the project.

This exhibit is the fourth in a continuing series of Cambodian cultural exhibits presented in partnership with the Haggin Museum. It serves both as a remembrance of a difficult history and a testament to cultural preservation, community strength, and intergenerational resilience.

I commend the individuals and organizations whose efforts have resulted in this important public exhibit and recognize its role in fostering historical understanding and cultural appreciation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. JOHN CULBREATH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a trailblazing educator, community lead-

er, and dear friend, Dr. John Culbreath. Sadly, Dr. Culbreath transitioned from labor to reward on August 5, 2025. A homegoing celebration of his remarkable life will be held on August 12, 2025, at Second Mount Zion Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

A native of Monroe, Georgia, Dr. John Culbreath was born to the union of John W. Culbreath, Sr., and Conca Vella Culbreath Shields. The value of a thorough education was instilled in him from an early age, empowering him to uplift countless young people in the communities he served. He first earned his bachelor of arts in French from Albany State University, followed by a master's in administration and supervision from Georgia State University, and a doctor of education degree from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Culbreath's career as an educator began as a teacher, where his dedication to students quickly caught the attention of his peers and administrators. He later served as assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent in several school systems throughout the region.

In 1995, Dr. Culbreath became a candidate for the School Superintendent position for the Dougherty County School System (DCSS) during a challenging time when the area was recovering from the devastating flood of 1994. He was selected as one of three finalists, and, after community engagement and public forums, he became the first African-American Superintendent of Schools in Dougherty County. Dr. Culbreath's tenure was pivotal, as he worked diligently to provide quality education while dispelling preconceived notions about his leadership. Most community members were willing to offer him a chance, impressed by his extensive experience and unwavering dedication to all students, regardless of their background.

Serving as Superintendent from 1995 to 2001, Dr. Culbreath remained focused on enhancing the educational experience for every student. He led the rebuilding of three schools damaged by the floods, improved technology resources, and advanced the school system to a level even better than before. His legacy continues through the thousands of students who passed through DCSS and went on to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Culbreath received numerous awards and accolades, including "Administrator of the Year" by the Georgia Association of Education Office Personnel and "School and Community Leader of the Year" by the Georgia School Public Relations Association. In 2007, he was honored with the H.M. Fulbright Distinguished Service Award by the Georgia Association of Education Leaders and named Alpha Man of the Year by the Gamma Omicron Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Former U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said, "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth." Dr. John Culbreath paid his rent fully. Throughout his life as an educator, he was a steadfast advocate for students, a trusted mentor, and a passionate champion for the transformative power of education.

On a personal note, I cherish Dr. Culbreath's loyalty and willingness to serve. He was indeed a trailblazer and a bridge builder, making the world a better place through his commitment to God and humanity.