

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.

Dr. Culbreath accomplished so much in his life, but all of it was made possible through the grace of God and the love and support of his devoted family: his wife, Barbara, and his children, Adrian, Cynthia, and Carletha. He will be deeply missed.

As we reflect on his life, we honor his unwavering faith, tireless commitment to service, and passion for community improvement and upliftment of the thousands of students who benefited from his teaching and leadership. Truly, Southwest Georgia is a stronger, better place because of Dr. John Culbreath's dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District, in honoring the life and legacy of Dr. John Culbreath and extending our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss. May we all find consolation and comfort through abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING DWIGHT PENLAND

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifelong service of Commissioner Dwight Penland of Clay County. Mr. Penland is the longest-serving commissioner in Clay County history, with a tenure of nineteen years. Before his time on the Board of Commissioners, Mr. Penland served eight years on the Clay County Board of Education. In total, Commissioner Penland has spent 27 years at the helm of local public policy in Clay County, serving as a voice of reason and unyielding advocate for his community.

Mr. Penland grew up in Bell Creek, a community in Clay County. The youngest of five sons to father JD Penland and mother Hazel Penland, Mr. Penland graduated from Hayesville High School in 1978, where he volunteered as the middle school girls' basketball coach. Even at a young age, Mr. Penland's passion and commitment to serving the children of Clay County is evident. He went on to become a successful local businessowner in Hayesville, where he served the needs of his customers and helped grow the Clay County economy. Commissioner Penland and his wonderful wife, Leonia "Sissy" Penland, have two grown children, Jarrod and Jadrian.

Clay County has achieved remarkable milestones under Commissioner Penland's leadership, including the construction of a new courthouse, public health department, Department of Social Services, and Department of Transportation facility to enhance government administration. Additionally, Commissioner Penland oversaw the construction of a new sheriff's office, detention center, Emergency Medical Services building, 911 call center, recreation center, primary school, and Veterans Park to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of Clay County residents.

On behalf of the people of Clay County and Western North Carolina, I thank Commissioner Penland for his lifelong service to our wonderful home and our deserving people.

RECOGNIZING NEW TERRAIN BREWING COMPANY

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize New Terrain Brewing Company of Golden, Colorado, for winning a Gold Medal from the World Beer Cup, designating their Suntrip brew as a world-class beer.

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 2016, the New Terrain Brewing Company has strived to be a socially responsible company, contributing to a variety of volunteering and community fundraising efforts.

Small businesses like New Terrain Brewing Company help drive Golden's local economy and the economy of our state. For both natives and members of Golden's thriving tourism industry, New Terrain Brewing Company provides excellent service and beers, contributing to Colorado's leadership in producing outstanding craft brews.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate New Terrain Brewing Company for this award.

HONORING THE FLEMINGTON JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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 honor the Flemington Jewish Community Center (FJCC), which is marking the celebration of its 100th anniversary as a cherished spiritual and cultural home in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Since its founding, the FJCC has exemplified the spirit of community, service, and faith: principles that have guided it to its position as a flourishing center of Jewish life and learning.

The history of the FJCC stretches back to the early decades of the twentieth century, when a wave of Jewish farmers, inspired by the promise of opportunity and liberty from oppression, found their way to Hunterdon County. 1922 marks the founding of the Hebrew Citizens Congregation of Hunterdon County, the brief precursor to today's Flemington Jewish Community Center.

The FJCC's earliest permanent home was a small house on Park Avenue in Flemington, which was remodeled to suit the religious and cultural needs of its growing membership. During these formative years, the congregation's devotion to community and Jewish life was evident not only in weekly services and holiday observances, but also in robust cultural activities. Furthermore, as the world plunged into the Second World War, the Center turned its attention outward, raising funds for defense bonds and organizing to support displaced Jewish populations worldwide. The congregation's compassion, resourcefulness, and generosity established the Center as a moral beacon in Flemington and beyond.

In the post-war period, the FJCC renewed efforts to build a larger and more modern facility—a vision realized through a new synagogue on East Main Street, which was dedicated in 1948. Under the steady guidance of religious leaders like Rabbi Maurice Idell, and later Rabbi Evan Jaffe, the FJCC's mission expanded even further. Hebrew classes, a Ladies' Auxiliary, youth activities, and vibrant cultural programs created a profound strength of community.

As the congregation continued to thrive, it outgrew its Main Street home and, in 2006, celebrated the completion of a new 23,000-square-foot facility in Raritan Township. Under the guidance of Rabbi Eric Cohen, dedicated officers, staff, and volunteers, the congregation has embraced this modern space. From its Nursery and Hebrew Schools to adult education and dedicated interfaith outreach and charitable engagements, the FJCC stands today at the head of Jewish life in Hunterdon County, and reaches members from Trenton to Princeton, and from Annandale to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

As the earliest members hoped a century ago, the FJCC today is far more than a synagogue—it is a true community center. It provides a welcoming atmosphere for families on Friday evenings, Torah discussion on Saturdays, and learning opportunities for youth and adults alike. It brings together individuals of all backgrounds, reflecting the pluralism and mutual respect that are hallmarks of both American democracy and Jewish tradition. May it continue to be a sanctuary where tradition thrives, learning flourishes, and community guides generations to come. On this 100th anniversary, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Flemington Jewish Community Center.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF TONTOGANY'S SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. ROBERT E. LATTI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 8, 2025

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Village of Tontogany's Sesquicentennial. The perseverance of pioneers and settlers to overcome come the challenges faced during the early years of the village's history has persisted throughout the past 150 years. The hard work and spirit shown by generations of village residents have made Tontogany an outstanding example of American ingenuity.

Tontogany's long history dates back to the first settlers to settle in the area, Samuel and Eliza Hamilton. The village's name comes from the Ottawa Native American Chief Tondoganie. When it was officially incorporated in 1895, the town was an agricultural village, populated by farmers. Keeping with the village's small town charm, the original village hall built in 1898 is still used today. In 1900, The Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railway depot was constructed, allowing the village to continue its agricultural commerce. In 1958, Tontogany became the home of the newly formed Otsego Local School District which was formed when the state pushed for smaller districts to merge.

Mr. Speaker, by celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Village of Tontogany, community members recognize the outstanding