

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Seaman Jkharia Jefferson. Her determination, service, and example represent the very best of Mississippi and the United States Navy. We thank her for her service and wish her continued success as she advances in her military career.

RECOGNIZING PENN MANOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE SEA AIR AND LAND CHALLENGE

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Mushna Subba, Ben Thomas, and Wyatt Clare from Penn Manor High School for achieving two first-place finishes in the Sea Air and Land Challenge (SEAL) at Millersville University.

SEAL is a STEM competition sponsored by the Office of Naval Research. Millersville University is one of the many schools in the Nation that host this program, bringing in teams of high school students from across the region. The competition requires that students design and build robotic systems to use in challenges mimicking military-inspired missions.

Entering their drone into two challenges designed by the United States' finest special operations forces, Ms. Subba, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Clare secured two first-place wins. Their hard work as a team and application of their classroom lessons garnered them their victory. This achievement marked the second year in a row a Penn Manor High School team placed in the top two positions.

Mr. Speaker, these brilliant young individuals represent our Nation's next generation of STEM innovators. They serve as inspirations for those around them to pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Their success helps provide recognition for the important role STEM plays in keeping our country safe. I thank them for their ambition and drive to participate in such a program. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF MIDWAY, GEORGIA ON ITS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Midway, Georgia and to honor its centennial celebration which occurred on August 28th.

Midway is located in Liberty County, a name given to the town in remembrance of its citizens, Lyman Hall and Button Gwinnett, who bravely signed their names to the Declaration of Independence, in direct defiance of British rule.

Adding to the town's historical significance, another Midway resident by the name of Nathan Brownson served in the Continental Con-

gress from 1776 to 1778, helping guide our young nation through the turbulent revolutionary years.

Established in 1752, the Midway Congregational Church was destroyed during the Revolutionary War, highlighting the immense sacrifice made by the citizens of Midway in advancing the cause of liberty.

The town is now home to Georgia's only colonial museum and serves as one of the First District's most important cultural landmarks.

I am honored to celebrate the one-hundred-year anniversary of the town's incorporation.

MOURNING THE TRAGIC SHOOTING AT ANNUNCIATION CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to include in the RECORD the following statement mourning the tragic shooting at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SAINT PAUL, Minn.—Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04), Dean of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, issued the following statement on Wednesday after a gunman opened fire on a mass service during the first week of classes at Annunciation Catholic School, killing two children and wounding 17 others.

"The horrific violence this morning at Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis is heartbreaking. As a mother and grandmother, the tragic shooting of young school children, teachers, staff, and parishioners while they gathered at mass to celebrate the new school year is a tragedy beyond comprehension. The Twin Cities and all of Minnesota grieve alongside the victims and their families. They deserve and have the full support of our community, our state, and our nation.

"The immediate actions of adults, older children, law enforcement, EMTs, and medical personnel saved lives. I commend Governor Walz for acting swiftly and sending the State Patrol and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to respond to this horrific crime.

"President Trump and Congress have a duty to take action to end this epidemic of gun violence. We cannot once again wait for another tragedy before we enact common sense gun safety laws."

TRIBUTE TO DR. BEATRICE "BEA" THOMPSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. Beatrice "Bea" Thompson. For more than five decades, Dr. Thompson has saved her community as an educator, councilwoman, and Executive Director of the Westside Community Center. She is a trailblazer whose commitment to education, equity, and service has uplifted generations and strengthened the very foundation of Anderson.

Born in the Fork Community of Townville, South Carolina, Dr. Thompson was the eighth of nine children in a family that prized honesty, hard work, and education. With the support of her parents, she pursued her dream of becoming an educator. After earning a degree from South Carolina State College, she began teaching at Reed Street High School and later at Westside High School, where she also served as a guidance counselor. Determined to continue her studies, she earned master's degrees from Howard University and Atlanta University and a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Georgia. She spent her career with Anderson School District Five as a teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, and coordinator of psychological services. She retired in 1999.

In 1976, Dr. Thompson made history as the first African American elected to Anderson City Council, where she continues to serve nearly fifty years later. She went on to hold statewide and national leadership positions, including president of the South Carolina Municipal Association and a Member of the Democratic National Committee. Her work has always focused on improving opportunities for those too often left behind—from redistricting that ensured fair representation to initiatives that improved housing, infrastructure, and education in underserved neighborhoods.

Dr. Thompson's leadership extended to moments of national reckoning. Following the 2014 unrest in Ferguson, Missouri, she created a task force of ministers, community leaders, and law enforcement officials to strengthen relationships between Anderson's African American community and the police. Known as the "Dream Team," this group has received multiple awards for its success in building unity and trust.

Her vision is perhaps most visible at the Westside Community Center, known throughout Anderson as "the haven on the hill." The building was once West Franklin Elementary and had become vacant and neglected after tragedy struck in 1988 with the murder of its principal. Refusing to let it fade into ruin, Dr. Thompson mobilized support and led the transformation of the facility into a vibrant hub that today houses a health clinic, library, therapy center, extension offices, police presence, and the Upstate Fatherhood Coalition. The Center now stands as a symbol of hope and pride for Anderson.

Dr. Thompson's many honors include the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian award, which reflects the impact of her lifelong service. A city park bears her name, and she was featured in the African American History Calendar as a role model for future generations. She continues to live out the values instilled by her parents: honesty, hard work, and giving the best of oneself to the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating Dr. Beatrice Thompson—a pioneer, a visionary, and a champion of education and justice. Her legacy is one of service and perseverance, and it will continue to inspire future generations in Anderson and across South Carolina for years to come.

HONORING THE CLINIC DRUG
STORE, INCORPORATED

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the winner of the Georgia Rural Small Business of the Year Award: Clinic Drug Store, Incorporated.

Over the past 97 years, this family-owned and independent business has served the citizens of Sumter County, Georgia across three different businesses, including the Clinic Drug Store, Plains Pharmacy, and Café Campesino Community Coffeehouse.

The businesses have worked hand in hand with The University of Georgia's Small Business Development Center to elevate their services and provide excellent care to rural Georgia.

Three families have owned this business since its establishment: the Mont's, the

Godwin's and presently the Pinnell family, who continue to provide a superior level of service to patients and customers alike.

Their hard work and dedication were recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration during National Small Business Week back in May of this year, where they received the award in Atlanta.

Today, we congratulate the Clinic Drug Store, Inc. small business of a century of providing service and care to our rural citizens in Georgia, and their recognition by the SBA.