

will advance pediatric care. Recently, brain cancer has passed leukemia as the leading cause of cancer-related deaths of pediatric patients. While the number of cases is growing, survival rates have remained stagnant for 45 years. This needs to change.

The BRAIN Act will increase awareness for clinical trials, invest funding into glioblastoma therapeutics and cellular immunotherapy research, and authorize the FDA to ensure brain tumor patient access to clinical trials. Many aggressive pediatric cases have a survival rate of less than the average school year. We have the responsibility and opportunity to try and change that. Echoing what David Arons, of the National Brain Tumor Society, stated, “now is the time to build on government support for research and access to care for cancer patients.”

During this Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, I urge my colleagues to support these two bipartisan bills and give pediatric patients, across the country, a better chance to fight and survive.

RECOGNIZING HIS ALL-HOLINESS
ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

HON. AYANNA PRESSLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew to the United States of America as he accepts the prestigious and well-deserved Templeton Prize, one of the world's most prestigious awards in Religion and Science.

On behalf of the thousands of Greek Orthodox constituents who call the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District home and the more than 300 million followers worldwide, it is an honor to host the longest serving Archbishop of Constantinople in the Church's history and a humbling opportunity to say thank you for his efforts on behalf of the entire human family. Since being elevated to *primus inter pares* (first among equals) in 1991, he has worked tirelessly to promote religious freedom and human rights, foster cooperation and understanding among all people of faith, convene peace conferences around the globe, and call all of us to care for and preserve the environment we all share and will pass to our children and our children's children. His personal attention and institutional leadership to address issues that transcend borders or religious affiliation have led him being hailed as “The Bridge Builder”, “The Patriarch of Peace”, and the “Green Patriarch.”

Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's words and deeds have been in pursuit of justice, love, and reconciliation. And his lifetime of service and leadership has placed him among the illustrious company of previous Templeton Prize honorees—The Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and the first ever recipient, Mother Teresa.

As His All-Holiness reminds us, “We have it in our power either to increase the hurt inflicted on our world or to contribute toward its healing. The choice is ours.” and each day he rises and chooses serve, to lead, to guide, to empower, and to divine God's grace into heal-

ing. And it is my humbling honor to note for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the unique gift of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's leadership and spiritual guidance and for his innumerable contributions to peace and harmony during his visit to the United States.

RECOGNIZING MR. TIMOTHY KENNEDY AND MRS. ELLEN KENNEDY

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Timothy Kennedy and Mrs. Ellen Kennedy, a couple whose influence can be seen and heard throughout Western New York by audience members of Buffalo Opera Unlimited.

Mr. Kennedy studied Voice at the Academy of Music, and later, in furtherance of his education, obtained a Master's Degree in Music and Theater from SUNY Buffalo. Mr. Kennedy's career has been a testament to his love of music, teaching students at each education level the art of music. Mr. Kennedy has also acted and served in the role of theater director at the African American Cultural Center, leading local church and community choirs. Mr. Kennedy is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Buffalo Unlimited Opera, conducting a majority of productions for nearly four decades.

Mrs. Kennedy studied at SUNY Buffalo, obtaining a Master's Degree in Social Work, furthering her interest in child welfare advocacy and public policy. Mrs. Kennedy has served in the role of Associate Professor of Social Work and as chair of SUNY Buffalo State's Social Work Department. She co-founded Citizen Action of Western New York and has been a longtime member of the Coalition of Economic Justice. For nearly four decades, Mrs. Kennedy has acted as the Treasurer and Board Member of Buffalo Opera Unlimited.

Today, as we recognize the incredible service of Mr. Timothy Kennedy and Mrs. Ellen Kennedy, let us not only acknowledge their dedicated career as educational leaders and their steadfast commitment to the performance arts, but also their service to the Buffalo Opera Unlimited, providing a safe space for all to be seen and heard. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy's leadership is a masterclass in passion and artistry, and their service will be seen, felt, and heard for generations to come. We are all the better for it.

HONORING CRISTINA MERCADO ACEVEDO AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Cristina Mercado Acevedo is an interdisciplinary-trained professional with a master's in healthcare administration and over 20 years of community service involvement. She serves as the chief for

the Orlando VA Healthcare System's Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) Office, where she is responsible for volunteer services, philanthropic engagement, and partnership solutions with community stakeholders. The service's motto, “What's Your Why?” resonates heavily with her, and she uses it as a framework in building the program.

Ms. Mercado Acevedo began her VA career at the Orlando VA in 2012 as a Pathways intern. In 2014, she became the program support assistant for the Public Affairs Office, handling internal and external communications. She managed the social media accounts and worked to increase awareness and develop connections with veterans and the community. Ms. Mercado Acevedo served on the outreach committee that planned the VA's annual “Welcome Home” events. These family-friendly events provided access to emergent resources, employment opportunities, and information on both VA and community programs. During this time, she earned her Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and graduated from the VISN 8 Stepping with PRIDE Leadership Development Program.

Ms. Mercado Acevedo used these experiences to create one of the most robust CDCE programs in the Nation, not only offering veterans immediate assistance with emergent care items and transportation, but also sponsoring innovative projects aimed at improving veteran healthcare and experiences. Notable efforts include the partnership developed to combat food insecurity, which established the monthly Veterans Food Distribution event that serves around 300 veterans.

Ms. Mercado Acevedo continues to work to motivate the community to assist the VA in its mission to serve America's heroes. Her “why” is not only to help those who may not otherwise receive the help they need, but also to inspire others to do the same.

HONORING JOHN J. MEYERS, III

HON. BRIAN J. MAST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John J. Meyers, III, a United States Navy veteran who passed away on September 14, 2025, at the age of 87 in Sarasota, Florida.

Born on September 3, 1938, in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Meyers served his country with honor as a naval aviator. He completed his flight training in Pensacola, Florida, before joining VS-34 Squadron aboard the USS Essex. From 1962 to 1965, he served with distinction and became an instructor pilot at Naval Air Station Meridian in Meridian, Mississippi. His dedication to duty demonstrated the highest traditions of excellence of the United States Navy.

Following his military career, Mr. Meyers continued to make an impact in both aviation and financial services, and he retired as a respected financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Sarasota. Beyond his accomplishments, he always remained an active and valued member of his community. Known for his humor, storytelling, and generosity of spirit, he uplifted countless individuals through mentorship, writing, and his presence on the Legacy Bike Trails of Sarasota.

Mr. Meyers embodied duty, honor, and service throughout his whole life—first in uniform, and later, as a civilian dedicated to his family, career, and community. His legacy endures through every life he touched and the example he set of quiet strength and devotion to others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the remarkable life of John J. Myers, III, and in extending our gratitude for his service to our Nation and his contributions to his community.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. MAX L. MILLER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and the importance of saving lives from Prostate Cancer through awareness, education, and effective treatment for men's health in our Nation. Prostate Cancer is one of the most common cancers among men. As such, efforts that increase awareness of early detection, treatment, survival, and long-term health are vital.

As the second leading cause of cancer death in men, every 15 minutes a man dies from Prostate Cancer. More than 35,000 patients are projected to lose their lives to this disease in 2025 alone. However, early detection through regular screenings can significantly improve treatment outcomes and quality of life.

When detected in its early stages, Prostate Cancer is highly treatable, and patients have a wider range of options due to state-of-the-art innovations. The relative 5-year survival rate for Prostate Cancer diagnosed in its earliest stages is over 99 percent. Today, there are more than 3.3 million prostate cancer survivors.

However, Prostate Cancer incidence is increasing in the U.S.—after a period of decline, driven primarily by a rise in advanced-stage and distant-stage diagnoses—posing serious threats to the health of men in our Nation. The 5-year survival rate for advanced or metastatic prostate cancer drops to 37 percent—though early detection and treatment can prevent the cancer from spreading to other body organs, significantly improving long-term survival rates.

We must also recognize the dedicated healthcare professionals, as well as world-renowned expertise, seeking effective treatments of Prostate Cancer and other forms of Cancer, both in my congressional district in Northeast Ohio and throughout the Nation. Innovation in medical technology leads to better outcomes and a higher value of overall care. Broad advancements, including state-of-the-art non-invasive precision treatments, among others, have the capacity to revolutionize patient care and improve health outcomes.

It is sobering that one in eight men is diagnosed in their lifetime. Prostate Cancer impacts men from all walks of life, from urban centers to rural communities across America. While particularly affecting underserved populations, its reach touches even those in the highest profiles of public life, even those in this body.

Despite advancements in early detection and treatment, Prostate Cancer continues to exact a devastating toll on our nation, as a man is diagnosed with Prostate Cancer every two minutes in America. Therefore, the critical nature of saving lives from Prostate Cancer through awareness, education, and support is paramount.

I applaud H. Res. 675, recognizing September as National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, for which I am a cosponsor, and thank my colleagues for these efforts. More importantly, I commend those who have been touched by this devastating disease, including Tim Hecker in my home state of Ohio, as well as local cancer advocates, for their tireless commitment. Our Nation must lead the way in ending the devastating impacts of Prostate Cancer—with an urgent focus on breaking barriers for long-term health and survival for men in the United States.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF OSWALD'S PHARMACY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oswald's Pharmacy as they celebrate their remarkable 150th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1875, Oswald's Pharmacy has been one of Naperville's oldest continually family-run businesses and the longest running family pharmacy in business. Oswald's is a beloved establishment in Naperville and beyond due to its commitment to personalized care and reinvesting in the local community.

To address the evolving needs of the community it serves, Oswald's Pharmacy has expanded its services beyond just filling prescriptions to include vaccinations and health consultations. During times of crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Oswald's remained a vital resource for Naperville residents, providing critical care and information when it was needed most. As we mark this incredible milestone, it is important to honor the Oswald family for their unwavering commitment to excellence and community service.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Oswald's Pharmacy as they celebrate their 150th anniversary. Their longstanding history in Naperville is a testament to their commitment to service, community, and resilience. I wish Oswald's Pharmacy continued success for generations to come.

HONORING NATHAN CURLEE

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the selfless service of line apprentice, Nathan Curlee of Buncombe County.

As a line apprentice, Mr. Curlee is typically responsible for assisting linemen in the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical power systems; however, after the devastating

damage left in the wake of Hurricane Helene, Mr. Curlee took on additional responsibilities to restore power to Western North Carolina. Mr. Curlee, in collaboration with Journey Lineman Matt Martinka, became aware that the Veteran Affairs (VA) Hospital of Asheville needed restored power. Mr. Curlee and Mr. Martinka hiked 1.5 miles through the mountainous terrain of Western North Carolina to analyze the problems and restore power to the VA Hospital.

Mr. Curlee viewed restoring power to the VA Hospital as his way of giving back to the veterans for their years of service to our country. The men hiked through the dangerous terrain, remaining determined to restore power to the veterans of Buncombe County. In addition to Nathan Curlee's electrical expertise, his integrity, service, and humble attitude deserve the recognition and applause of Western North Carolina and the United States.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank Nathan Curlee for his service to Duke Energy customers. I especially commend his exceptional efforts in restoring power to the veterans of Asheville, North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

HONORING ARNALDO OLIVERAS AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Arnaldo Oliveras is the founder and president of 180 Commercial Real Estate Advisors, a technology-forward brokerage and consultancy headquartered in Orlando. Licensed in Florida and equipped with an MBA in global management, he has devoted more than two decades to catalyzing job growth and revitalizing commercial corridors across the State—most notably within Florida's Ninth Congressional District, which includes Kissimmee, St. Cloud, Lake Nona, and south Orlando.

Through 180 Commercial Real Estate Advisors, Mr. Oliveras has directed over \$600 million in retail and mixed-use transactions, ushering both national brands and emerging concepts into Central Florida while pioneering lease structures that maximize landlord value and tenant viability. His firm's concierge platform—integrating tenant and landlord representation, market analytics, project coordination, and post-occupancy advisory—has become a blueprint for sustainable development along the Osceola Parkway and U.S. 192 corridors, generating hundreds of local jobs and broadening consumer amenities for district residents. Mindful that thriving main streets anchor healthy economies, he also advises small retailers and family-owned enterprises on fair-lease negotiations and expansion strategies, ensuring small businesses share in the region's growth.

A passionate civic leader, Mr. Oliveras serves as the 2026 chair of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Orlando, championing entrepreneurship programs that directly benefit the Ninth District's vibrant business community. Oliveras also sits on the Executive Board at the Winter Park Chamber of