

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF LIEUTENANT ROBERT JOHN
HEANEY

HON. APRIL McCLAIN DELANEY

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY. Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Robert John Heaney was born on September 24, 1975, in Parlin, New Jersey. He later moved with his family to Derwood, Maryland, where he graduated from Colonel Zadok Magruder High School in 1993. From a young age, Robert demonstrated a strong commitment to service, a trait that would guide the course of his life and career.

On October 10, 2000, he joined the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department. Following the successful completion of his recruit training, he was assigned to Engine Company 14 in the Fort Totten area of Washington, D.C., in February 2001. Over the next two decades, he served with distinction in some of the department's most challenging and demanding assignments.

Rob was a proud and dedicated member of the Trinidad firehouse, known as the "House of Pain," a firehouse which was repeatedly recognized as the busiest in the entire United States. It was there that he earned a reputation for courage, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to those he served alongside. He later rose to the rank of Lieutenant and was assigned to Rescue Squad 2, one of the most elite companies within the department.

In 2023, Lieutenant Heaney was diagnosed with bladder cancer, a condition now recognized as an occupational illness associated with the fire service. Despite his diagnosis, he continued to show up with determination and resolve, remaining steadfast in his dedication to the job and his colleagues. On January 22, 2025, at the age of 49, he passed away from occupational cancer. His death was formally recognized as a line-of-duty death.

Lieutenant Heaney is survived by his loving wife, Beth Heaney, and their two children, Molly and Finn. He also leaves behind his father, Robert Heaney Sr., his brother Sean, and his sister, Kellie.

Lieutenant Robert John Heaney's legacy is one of service, sacrifice, and honor. His memory lives on through his family, his colleagues, and the countless lives he touched throughout his career. It is an honor to enter Lieutenant Heaney's legacy in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I extend my deepest gratitude for his devotion to others.

HONORING REV. DR. JEANETTE
SALGUERO AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR HISPANIC HERITAGE

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Rev. Dr. Jeanette Salguero is a pastor, educator, and nonprofit leader whose work has transformed Florida's Ninth Congressional District. As co-lead pastor

of The Gathering Place Church in Orlando, she has built a thriving, multicultural congregation committed to restoring lives, families, the city, and the world. She is co-leading the creation of a Dream Center Campus in Central Florida, designed to provide comprehensive services for families in need. Dr. Salguero is the creator of the Oikonomia Initiative, a groundbreaking program that equips pastors and nonprofit leaders with financial literacy, debt-relief resources, and leadership excellence funds. Through this initiative, Central Florida pastors and leaders have been empowered to pay down personal debt, stabilize their finances, and strengthen their capacity to serve their communities.

She also founded the Avance Initiative, which brings together Latino leaders and entrepreneurs for capacity development, strengthening their organizational infrastructures and expanding their community impact. As executive director of the Carrión Hispanic Leadership Center at Southeastern University, Dr. Salguero has helped expand access to affordable, high-quality education for over 200 Latino students.

She also serves as co-founder and vice president of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC), headquartered in the district, where she mobilizes a national network of over 3,000 leaders around issues such as poverty alleviation, immigration, and educational equity. With a pastoral heart and prophetic vision, Dr. Salguero has secured multi-million-dollar philanthropic investments, built bridges across sectors, and brought national visibility to Florida's Ninth District as a model for church-based and nonprofit-led community transformation.

CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ERIE CANAL
AND THE 2025 WORLD CANALS
CONFERENCE

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 celebrate the 2025 World Canals Conference, being held in Buffalo, New York, where the opening of the Erie Canal changed the world. This is an event where experts and enthusiasts from all over the globe share innovative practices related to economic and community development, waterway management, tourism, and historic preservation along inland waterways.

For decades, the World Canals Conference has brought together the brightest minds working on inland waterways to share ideas and inspiration for the future of their field of work. Established in 1990, the World Canals Conference plays an important role in highlighting how canals and inland waterways contribute to cultural and historical preservation, and environmental revitalization.

Hosted this year in the City of Buffalo, this unique conference will see community members and visitors gather at the Erie Canal, the first all-water link between the Atlantic Ocean and the upper Great Lakes. The Erie Canal serves as a testament to the vision of the Empire State and those who imagined a narrow ribbon of waterway, carved through nearly four

hundred miles of forests and wetlands that transformed our state and nation, carrying food and materials from the heart of North America to the global market.

This week, we celebrate the World Canals Conference and its steadfast commitment to commerce and water management across the globe. May this week continue to inspire future generations to uphold historical preservation and remind us to work together for a stronger, more connected world.

THANKING ALEKSI KNEPP FOR
HER SERVICE TO ILLINOIS' 13TH
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. NIKKI BUDZINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of and express my deep gratitude for my agriculture policy advisor, Aleks Knepp, for her outstanding service to my office over the past 2½ years.

Since joining my team in 2023 as legislative assistant, Aleks has been entrusted with a wide portfolio of issues, but her leadership on agriculture and education policy has made a lasting mark on my office and Illinois' 13th district. In these roles, she has not only proved invaluable to me and my staff but has also served as a direct voice for my constituents in Illinois' 13th district.

Aleks has been at the center of some of the most important legislative and district activities I have undertaken. She has guided my office through farm bill negotiations and markups, ensured that our team was well-prepared for the annual Farm Progress Show, and represented my office with diligence and skill at countless other hearings, briefings, and stakeholder meetings. Regardless of what policy issue she was tasked with solving, Aleks approached every task with a sense of dedication, professionalism, and passion for public service.

As the daughter of central Illinois farmers, Aleks brings to her role not only technical expertise but also lived experience. She understands first-hand the challenges faced by family farmers and rural communities across Illinois. She has carried that perspective into this role, always keeping in mind the voices of those who are too often left out of debates in Washington.

Outside of her incredible policy contributions, Aleks has been an integral member of our team, helping to build a culture of collaboration, camaraderie, and hard work.

While I am saddened to see Aleks depart from my staff, I am so proud that she will be continuing her service to the public on the House Committee on Agriculture, where she will have the opportunity to work on behalf of growers and producers from across the Nation.

I want to once again thank Aleks Knepp for her service to my office and my constituents. While she will be missed in my office, I look forward to continuing to work with her in her new role, and I know that she has a bright future ahead of her in public service.

HONORING TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S
75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, New Jersey.

Since its founding in 1950, Temple Emanu-El has been committed to embracing innovation and creativity in the practice of Jewish life and support of the Jewish community. The congregation works to create a space for each member to find the expression of Judaism that makes them feel connected, included, and seen within their community. Temple Emanu-El was founded by 43 Westfield Jewish families of varying Jewish backgrounds who came together to create their own religious home. At this time, Jewish individuals could not purchase land in much of Westfield, and, despite local residents circulating petitions against the founding of a synagogue, the founders of Temple Emanu-El remained resilient and persevered.

Through traditional Jewish liturgy with Reform Jewish prayer and practice, Temple Emanu-El established a one-of-a-kind expression of Reform Judaism. Now comprised of 950 families, Temple Emanu-El creates a space where members participate in Jewish ritual life, educational programming, and lifelong learning. The values that members learn within the walls translate into the greater community of Westfield and Union County, where congregants engage in local, state, and national advocacy, philanthropy, and justice. The temple also encourages members to form a meaningful connection to the Land and People of Israel. Temple Emanu-El stands as the model of an engaged, creative, and vibrant Reform synagogue.

Mr. Speaker, as Temple Emanu-El celebrates 75 years of Jewish spiritual, cultural, and communal excellence, I am pleased to commend Senior Rabbi Ethan Prosnit and the congregation for being an integral part of the Westfield area. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this community truly dedicated to faith and education.

TRIBUTE TO DR. LA-DINÉ
WILLIAMS GAMBLE

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. La-Diné Williams Gamble, a devoted servant of God, a gifted musician, a tireless educator, and a beloved wife, mother, and grandmother. Dr. Gamble transitioned into eternal rest on Thursday, September 18, 2025, leaving behind a rich legacy of faith, music, service, and scholarship that touched lives across South Carolina and beyond.

Born in Lakewood, New Jersey, on February 27, 1964, to Johnny and Rudine Williams, La-Diné grew up in a faith-filled and education-centered home. From an early age, she displayed remarkable musical talent, be-

ginning piano studies at the age of five and later training at Juilliard. She excelled academically and artistically, graduating from Hillside High School where she was active in band, theater, and choir. She went on to pursue higher education at Shenandoah Conservatory, Seton Hall University, and Clark Atlanta University, where she earned her master's degree in public administration. Committed to lifelong learning, she completed doctoral studies in Christian Education at Gospel Without Borders Bible College and Seminary.

Music was her lifelong ministry. Dr. Gamble served as organist, choir director, and soloist for churches in New Jersey, Georgia, and South Carolina. She was a founding member of the National Baptist Convention USA Choir Auxiliary, served faithfully with New Ebenezer Baptist Church in Florence where her husband pastored, and was inducted into the South Carolina Baptist E&M Convention's Music Hall of Fame. She believed that music was a way God spoke to her, and she shared that gift in sanctuaries, classrooms, and celebrations across decades.

Dr. Gamble's professional life was equally impactful. She taught in higher education, guided young people through the Williamsburg County School District and Williamsburg Technical College, and directed grant-writing efforts that secured a \$25 million Race to the Top award. Even after retiring, she continued to consult with school districts and local governments, championing programs to improve education, healthcare, and opportunities for rural communities.

Her civic and cultural service extended through many affiliations, including the Lions Club, the American Leadership Forum, and her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Initiated into AKA in 1986, she served as president of two chapters, including Lambda Theta Omega Chapter in Kingstree, South Carolina, and exemplified the sorority's motto of "service to all mankind." Known for her elegance and joy, she approached each conference, convention, and gathering with grace, flair, and her radiant smile.

At the heart of her life was her family. She married Rev. Dr. Norman Gamble in 1993, and together they raised four children—Ti-Esha, Cambridge, Na-Dya, and Malcolm—in stilling in them the values of faith, education, and service. She delighted in her role as "Mommy La" to her grandchildren, Landon and Tihler.

Even during her courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, Dr. Gamble remained a beacon of hope. She brought joy to others with her trademark "fashion show" entrances at chemotherapy treatments and inspired countless friends and strangers through her uplifting messages of faith shared online.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in remembering and celebrating the extraordinary life of Dr. La-Diné Williams Gamble. She was a woman of deep faith, boundless energy, and remarkable talent who gave of herself in every sphere of life. Her music, her ministry, and her love will live on in her family, her church, and her community for years to come.

HONORING MATT MARTINKA

HON. CHUCK EDWARDS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2025

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to selfless service Linemen Matt Martinka of Duke Energy.

Mr. Martinka is a Journeyman Lineman in the Asheville area working for Duke Energy, a leading energy company that focuses on delivering electricity and natural gas services to the citizens of North Carolina. Mr. Martinka, along with apprentice linemen Nathan Curlee, were single handedly responsible for restoring power to the Asheville Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital after the catastrophic events of Hurricane Helene.

Hiking over a mile and a half through flooded roads, fallen trees, and a devastated landscape, Mr. Martinka demonstrated remarkable dedication and perseverance to restore power to the VA hospital. Mr. Martinka is a veteran from a multi-generational military family, including his father, grandfather, son, and nieces, and embodies a lifelong commitment to service. Upon learning that power could be restored to the hospital, Mr. Martinka didn't hesitate to act. The people of Asheville have since expressed their deep gratitude, commending Mr. Martinka for his unparalleled courage and selflessness.

On behalf of all of Western North Carolina, I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank Mr. Martinka for his dedication and service to his community and to those who have served our country in uniform.

CELEBRATING NATIVITY MIGUEL
SCHOOL

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 and celebrate Nativity Miguel School, a school dedicated to providing quality education to students throughout Western New York. The school fosters academic and personal growth within a supportive community where students are empowered to reach their full potential.

Established more than two decades ago, Nativity Miguel School was grounded in the values and educational principles of Father James F. Joyce. Father Joyce was sent to Buffalo, New York, to conduct a study of the educational needs and challenges of students in underserved communities. To address the problems, Father Joyce proposed the "Nativity Model," a proven method that has been successfully implemented in other Catholic schools throughout the state.

Drawing from its four pillars of courage, compassion, community, and contemplation, Nativity Miguel School walks arm-in-arm with its students and families throughout their educational journey, long after they have graduated. The school's delivery of unique and effective education, including dedicated teachers, personal and peer mentoring, and a strong emphasis on learning, creates an environment where every student can thrive.