

Today, as we commemorate the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Nativity Miguel School's newest location, let us celebrate the growth of a mission rooted in hope, opportunity, and transformative education for every student who walks through these doors. Each graduating class builds on this legacy, carrying forward the values, education, and sense of purpose that Nativity Miguel School instills, and Western New York is all the better for it.

HONORING PEDRO TURUSHINA AS  
A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN  
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR HIS-  
PANIC HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. DARREN SOTO**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2025*

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Pedro Turushina is the president and CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Metro Orlando, where he leads the strategic direction of one of the top two chambers in the region. In this role, he develops proactive programs that strengthen membership engagement, foster collaboration, and create meaningful partnerships with key stakeholders across government, private, and non-profit sectors. His leadership positions the chamber as a catalyst for business ownership, economic advancement, and community empowerment.

A proud Colombian native who has called Orlando home since 2001, Pedro has dedicated his career to driving economic growth in Central Florida. Before leading the chamber, he was the founder and creative director of a marketing agency, supporting entrepreneurs and organizations in building their brands and strategies. Today, his vision extends beyond organizational leadership—he actively cultivates alliances that directly impact the region's economy, including partnerships with the cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud, both part of Florida's Ninth Congressional District. Thanks to his efforts, both municipalities are now valued trustees of the chamber, underscoring the trust and collaboration he has fostered in the community.

Under his leadership, the chamber co-hosted a Small Business Town Hall with Orange County and SkyBuilders USA, creating a platform for local entrepreneurs to share needs, connect with peers, and shape the future of Orange County's Small Business Enterprise Program.

Pedro's authenticity and entrepreneurial background have made him a trusted advocate for small businesses, particularly in Osceola County, where the chamber has expanded its presence to better serve the Hispanic community. His commitment to empowerment and opportunity has earned him national and regional recognition, including being named a Top Latino Leader by the Council for Latino Workplace Equity. He has also been recognized as Orlando Business Journal's 40 Under 40, and recipient of the Citrus Club Hispanic Heritage Award as Future Leadership Trailblazer Man of the Year.

HONORING HIS ALL-HOLINESS EC-  
UMENICAL PATRIARCH BAR-  
THOLOMEW

**HON. RUSSELL FRY**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2025*

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, a spiritual leader recognized around the world as both a bridge builder and a peacemaker.

For decades, Patriarch Bartholomew has endured harassment and persecution, yet he has remained steadfast in his mission to foster reconciliation between East and West, to promote interfaith dialogue, and to speak out forcefully against fanaticism and violence. His efforts to defend human rights and religious freedom have earned him deep respect among people of many faiths.

Patriarch Bartholomew's unwavering commitment to peace, compassion, and justice has left a profound impact on the world, and his example continues to inspire people across the globe.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his extraordinary service and lasting contributions to humanity.

WELCOMING ECUMENICAL  
PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2025*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All-Holiness Bartholomew, who is traveling to the U.S. this month to receive the prestigious Templeton Prize, on his achievements in interfaith dialogue. As this year's Templeton Prize Laureate, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will join the esteemed ranks of past recipients, including Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

His All-Holiness has been a pioneer in merging spirituality with science as a force for change. As head of the Eastern Orthodox church, he has gathered scientists, scholars, politicians with Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim clerics. He also became the first Christian hierarch to visit countries like Libya, Syria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Qatar, and Bahrain, building on his church's 550-year history of coexistence with Muslims.

In 1997, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal "in recognition of his outstanding and enduring contributions to religious understanding and peace." That same year, he decried pollution, deforestation, and climate change as "ecological sins." His All-Holiness' dedication to preserving our planet for future generations is an inspiration to us all.

I thank The Ecumenical Patriarch for his work on interfaith dialogue and protecting the environment, congratulate His All-Holiness on being recognized by the Templeton Prize, and welcome him back to the United States.

RECOGNIZING NATHAN MORRIS,  
2026 ARKANSAS SUPER-  
INTENDENT OF THE YEAR

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2025*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Nathan Morris, current Superintendent of the Cross County School District. He is a dedicated Arkansan, a passionate educator, and a strong leader.

On September 15, 2025, Dr. Morris received the prestigious honor of 2026 Arkansas Superintendent of the Year. This award is presented to those who successfully lead learning in their districts, demonstrate strength in both personal and organizational communication, show continuous improvement in administrative knowledge and skills, and actively participate in local community activities while maintaining a deep understanding of regional, national, and international issues.

Dr. Morris' efforts have ensured a graduation rate of 98 percent with a growing academic proficiency rating. Cross County High School has been included in the lists by U.S. News and World Report for both Best High Schools and Best Charter High Schools. At the elementary school level, Cross County Elementary Technology Academy has been recognized as Top 10 World's Best Schools for Overcoming Adversity while under Dr. Morris' leadership.

Dr. Morris began his tenure as superintendent in 2018 and has since guided Cross County through a significant transformation. He has implemented programs that foster teacher leadership, professional collaboration, and growth which have led to lowered office referrals, boosted teacher effectiveness, and 20 percent growth in enrollment.

Dr. Morris exemplifies commitment, hard work, and an unwavering passion for academic success. His recognition as Superintendent of the Year is not only an incredible personal milestone, but a reflection of the great community we have throughout the First District of Arkansas.

I want to offer my sincere congratulations to Dr. Morris, and I look forward to his continued work in education.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
DANIELLE CHRYSLER

**HON. MARK B. MESSMER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2025*

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Danielle Chrysler for her distinguished career of service to the State of Indiana, our Nation, and the United States Army National Guard.

Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler most recently served as the Army Congressional Branch Chief at the National Guard Bureau, where she was the principal Congressional Liaison for the Director of the Army National Guard. In this capacity, she brought to bear more than three decades of experience in government affairs, defense policy, and cyber policy.

Her military career spans 15 years in the Indiana Army National Guard, including command of the 215th Area Support Medical

Company and a deployment with the 38th Infantry Division, where she served as Executive Officer to the Commanding General. Prior to her most recent role, Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler served four years in Joint and Army Congressional Affairs at the National Guard Bureau, strengthening the relationship between Congress and our Citizen-Soldiers.

In addition to her military service, Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler has held a series of senior civilian leadership roles in Indiana. She served as Executive Director of the Indiana Office of Defense Development, as Chief Operating Officer and President of the National Center for Complex Operations, and earlier as Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman. She also served as Legislative Director for Governor Mitch Daniels, where she was instrumental in advancing major initiatives on property tax reform, transportation infrastructure, and benefits for Hoosier veterans.

Mr. Speaker, Lieutenant Colonel Chrysler's career reflects a lifetime of commitment to service, leadership, and excellence. She has dedicated herself to strengthening our national defense, advancing Indiana's role in critical policy areas, and ensuring that the National Guard remains prepared to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lieutenant Colonel Danielle Chrysler for her outstanding service to Indiana and to the United States of America.

#### CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LESSIE SYLVEEN POINDEXTER CROSBY

##### 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 today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mrs. Lessie Sylveen Poindexter Crosby, a beacon of light in the City of Buffalo. Mrs. Poindexter Crosby's life story is a beautiful tapestry woven with love and resilience.

Born September 7, 1935, in Buffalo, New York, to Issac Costello and Fannie Sue Poindexter Johnson. Mrs. Poindexter Crosby was raised to inspire everyone she met with her selflessness and compassion. Over the years, she has witnessed many changes in her life and community, yet her love for those around her has remained a constant source of strength. Mrs. Poindexter Crosby has consistently demonstrated Christian principles as a community member and spiritual leader in the Women's Ministry at First Shiloh Baptist Church.

Mrs. Poindexter Crosby's most rewarding roles have been those of a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. In 1953, Mrs. Poindexter Crosby married the late Mr. Excel Crosby. Their loving union blessed them with four community-minded children—Julie, Gary, Bridgett, and Lisa. Together, they built a home filled with love, respect, and responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mrs. Poindexter Crosby, a woman of poise and resilience, whose influence extends beyond her beloved family and community. On this milestone birthday, we celebrate her extraordinary life, her enduring legacy, and the profound impact she has made on all who know her.

#### HONORING PHILLIP ARROYO 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, Phillip Arroyo is a distinguished attorney, advocate, and proud Puerto Rican whose life reflects a lifelong dedication to justice. Born in 1982 on a United States military base in Germany to a Puerto Rican father who served in the Armed Forces, he was raised with the values of resilience, service, and courage. From 2009 to 2012, Mr. Arroyo served as special assistant to the Puerto Rico Secretary of State, Kenneth McClintock, and in the Puerto Rico Senate. He later addressed the international community, twice testifying before the United Nations in New York City on the island's unequal political status within the United States. In 2012, he was selected from thousands of applicants nationwide to serve as a White House intern under President Barack Obama's administration, where he worked in the office of then-Vice President Joe Biden, analyzing domestic policy.

Following his graduation from Florida A&M University College of Law, Mr. Arroyo chose to serve as a public defender, representing the poor and ensuring the constitutional rights of the most vulnerable were protected. In 2022, he transitioned into private practice, co-founding the Arroyo Law Firm in Orlando, Florida, with his wife and law partner, Josephine Arroyo. Under their leadership, the firm has become one of Central Florida's most respected criminal defense and immigration practices, recognized for zealous advocacy, service to underserved communities, and its particular commitment to assisting the Hispanic community.

In addition, Mr. Arroyo is a frequent commentator in both national and local media on issues of criminal justice, immigration, and civil rights. While many in the legal community have remained silent, he has consistently spoken up in defense of our Constitution and immigrant communities during these dark times.

His journey—from Puerto Rico to the United Nations, to the White House, and now to the courtroom—stands as a testament to perseverance, courage, and the enduring power of advocacy in the pursuit of justice for all.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OFFICER KARL HAUGEN

##### HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2025*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Officer Karl Haugen, who passed away recently while off-duty.

As early as high school, Karl expressed an interest in becoming a first responder. After attending the Law Enforcement Program at Alexandria Technical College and earning his Bachelor's Degree from Mankato State University, he began his public service career, work-

ing at the Minnesota Forensic Hospital in St. Peter. He later worked at the MN Correctional Facility—Faribault and served for two years as Henderson Chief of Police.

In 2008, he became an officer with the Le Sueur Police Department. Officer Haugen was well-known in the community for his humor, generosity, and compassionate approach to law enforcement. Despite the challenges and sacrifices of rural policing, he remained dedicated to public service and demonstrated a talent for seeing the good in people.

I offer my deepest condolences to Officer Haugen's family—his wife, Morgan, and his young children, Griffin, Aurora, and Teddy, and I thank him and the entire Le Sueur Police Department for their service to our community.

#### HONORING MS. HATTIE WHITE ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2025*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartfelt birthday wishes to Ms. Hattie White as she celebrates her remarkable 100th birthday. Born in 1925, she lived in the vibrant Bedford Stuyvesant community in Brooklyn, New York. A community known for its rich African American heritage, social activism, and brownstone homes that reflected the pride of homeownership among neighbors. In fact, at a time when homeownership was not easily attainable, Ms. White owned a home where she provided her seven children with a stable and nurturing environment.

Ms. Hattie lived a life characterized by hard work, resilience, adaptability, and faith. Her life spanned historical events in our society, from the Great Depression, World War II, to the Civil Rights Movement, the cultural shifts of the 1960's and 70's and the advancements in technology. These events shaped her experiences and perspectives, further strengthening her resolve.

In addition to her family, Ms. Hattie has been and remains a devoted member of the Zion Shiloh Baptist Church. Her unwavering faith and commitment to the church community have made her a beloved figure among her fellow congregants. She is a respected elder of the church who is renowned for her years of leadership roles, community service, and guiding her congregation. Her compassion and generosity have touched the lives of many in Brooklyn, making her a true beacon of hope and inspiration.

Ms. Hattie White exemplifies a remarkable legacy of longevity, resilience and a proud spirit of service. She is cherished by her family and friends, who are deeply grateful for her unconditional love and friendship.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Hattie White, one of our Nation's Centenarians, on this special occasion of her 100th year birthday.