

larger level. I include in the RECORD the following volunteers:

Braddock District Citizen of the Year: Robert Cosgriff (1997) and Bob and Lee Sottile (2002)

Braddock District Neighborhood Enhancement Award: Melissa and Jarrett Stark (2019)

Braddock District Civic Engagement Award: Robert Cosgriff (2024)

Lord Fairfax (Braddock District): Robert Mullin Jr. (1990) and Robert Cosgriff (2021)

Lady Fairfax (Braddock District): Pamela Barrett (2009)

In addition to these individual recognitions, HFCA has received a number of awards as a community because of their environmental and conservation efforts. HFCA earned the Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Award in 2002 and 2024, as well as earning the "Friends of the Trees" Award in 2021. These awards are a testament to the dedication of the Hickory Farms residents and the commitment of the HFCA to uphold high environmental standards for their community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me, in congratulating Hickory Farms on its 50th anniversary. For five decades, residents have enjoyed the best of what Fairfax County has to offer because of the tireless work of the HFCA. This community is a prime example of why this county is a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. Cheers to another 50 years.

HONORING RONALD HUGUENIN AS
A DISTINGUISHED FIRST RE-
SPONDER LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Huguenin has dedicated more than two decades to public safety and service in Central Florida. Beginning his career in 2001, he served with the Daytona Beach Fire Department from 2002 to 2007, where he was a member of the Motor Medics, the Technical Rescue Team, and served as a fire explorer advisor, mentoring young adults interested in careers in the fire service. In 2007, he joined the Orlando Fire Department, where he currently serves as a lieutenant paramedic within the Special Operations Command, assigned to Engine 2/B, known as the "Pride of Parramore."

Lieutenant Huguenin is a state-certified firefighter and nationally registered paramedic, with specialized certifications as a hazmat technician and Scott Air-Pak technician. His career reflects a strong commitment to technical excellence, operational readiness, and leadership in complex emergency situations that demand precision and teamwork.

Beyond emergency response, Lieutenant Huguenin has played an active role in strengthening community ties and developing the next generation of firefighters. He participated in the "Books and Badges" program, which promotes literacy and mentorship in local schools, and contributed to strategic planning efforts that brought together a diverse group of individuals to help shape the long-term vision of the Orlando Fire Department. He currently serves as the lead instruc-

tor for the B-shift Field Training Officer program, ensuring probationary firefighters develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to complete their first year successfully. Additionally, as treasurer for the Orlando Professional Firefighters Union, he has helped organize initiatives that provide food and support for families and individuals in need across the Central Florida community.

Lieutenant Huguenin's dedication to his profession, his department, and the community he serves exemplifies the courage, service, and selflessness that define the firefighting profession.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF SANDRA FIGUEROA-VILLA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor non-profit leader and lifetime activist, Sandra Figueroa-Villa. Born and raised in South Los Angeles, Ms. Figueroa-Villa has devoted over four decades to the non-profit sector, most notably serving as the Executive Director of El Centro del Pueblo since 1980.

At El Centro del Pueblo, Ms. Figueroa-Villa has worked to address and mitigate the impacts of gang violence in Los Angeles. Thanks to her leadership, El Centro was transformed from an organization with a budget deficit and two part-time employees to a nationally recognized social services provider with 80 employees and an annual budget of \$10 million.

Ms. Figueroa-Villa has expanded El Centro's services to include family preservation, employment services, and youth delinquency prevention programs, which helps reduce youth violence and strengthen local families. In addition, El Centro is home to the Echo Park Family Source Center, providing financial counseling, tax preparation, tutoring and college prep classes and other critical services to Angelenos.

Ms. Figueroa-Villa has also been active in public service, serving on the Board of Police Commissioners. In this role, she improved policies for the Police Department's interactions with homeless individuals, and the Department's de-escalation and use of force protocols. Ms. Figueroa-Villa continues to serve on numerous executive boards and commissions, notably including the City's Children, Youth, and Family Commission and the Los Angeles Unified School District's Redistricting Commission.

In recognition of Ms. Figueroa-Villa's decades of leadership in advancing social justice and community empowerment, the city has named the intersection of W. Sunset Boulevard and Lemoyne Street, adjacent to El Centro del Pueblo's main office, as "Sandra Figueroa-Villa Square." This historic renaming will ensure Ms. Figueroa-Villa's legacy is remembered by all Angelenos in the years ahead.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I sincerely thank Ms. Figueroa-Villa for her continued dedication to Los Angeles and lifelong career in public service.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DIS-
ABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARE-
NESS MONTH

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, observed each October to honor the invaluable contributions of people with disabilities to the workforce and to reaffirm our commitment to expand their participation in the future.

In 1945, the Nation first designated a national week to recognize the contributions of people with physical disabilities. Designated by Congress as NDEAM in 1988, commemoration evolved to acknowledge the importance of increasing the number of people with disabilities in the workforce. In 2001, the Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) was created and was given responsibility for NDEAM and for selecting and helping promote its annual theme.

This year's theme is "Celebrating Value and Talent", which reminds us that Americans with disabilities bring innovation, resilience, and unique perspectives to our communities and all sectors of our economy.

As we celebrate NDEAM and disability employment, I want to recognize the success of the AbilityOne Program, one of the largest and most impactful sources of employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities in the United States.

Since Congress first established the program over 80 years ago, AbilityOne has empowered individuals with disabilities by providing meaningful work opportunities through Federal contracts. Today, nearly 40,000 Americans, including thousands of veterans, are employed on these contracts providing essential products and services for Federal agencies with excellence, reliability, and pride.

ServiceSource, based in my Congressional district, is one of 400 AbilityOne Federal contractors doing this work across the country, contributing to workforce development and strengthening communities. I commend their efforts and other employers who are actively hiring people of all abilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month and in advancing policies that empower every American to secure a job and thrive. During the month of October, we should all reaffirm our commitment to a workforce that recognizes and welcomes everyone's contributions.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA CLEMENCY HOME
RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Clemency Home Rule Act, which would give the District of Columbia exclusive authority to grant clemency for D.C. crimes. Currently, the president exercises the authority to grant clemency for D.C.

crimes, though presidents rarely do so. D.C. residents deserve a say in whether their fellow residents deserve mercy. In the 117th Congress, the House Committee on Oversight and Reform passed this bill as part of the District of Columbia Home Rule Expansion Act of 2022 (H.R. 8861).

While D.C. law appears to give the mayor authority to grant clemency for certain D.C. crimes (D.C. Code 1–301.76), under current practice, clemency petitions for D.C. crimes, like federal crimes, are submitted to the Department of Justice for the president's consideration.

The states and territories have full control over their criminal justice systems, including clemency. D.C. also should have full control over its criminal justice system. Since the D.C. Council has authority to enact local D.C. laws, D.C. officials are in the best position to grant clemency for D.C. crimes. This bill would give D.C. authority to use any type of clemency system.

This bill is an important step in expanding D.C. home rule. I urge my colleagues to support it.

HONORING CHRISTOPHER FEARON
AS A DISTINGUISHED FIRST RESPONDER
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer in Altamonte Springs, while off-duty and spending time with his family, Firefighter and Paramedic Christopher Fearon witnessed a five-year-old boy slip under the water and begin to drown. Within seconds, he pulled the child out, cleared his airway, and helped him take a lifesaving breath. The boy was purple in the face and struggling to breathe, but thanks to Chris's training, instinct, and calm under pressure, he survived and recovered.

Chris embodies: Skill and decisiveness under pressure—drawing on years of fire-rescue and paramedic training; Service beyond duty—never hesitating to act, even off the clock; Humility and compassion—later reflecting, “All I wanted to do since I was little was help people . . . and I love it.” This act of quick thinking heroism, covered by local news, not only saved a life but also drew attention to the importance of water safety in Central Florida. The boy has since received a scholarship to learn to swim, creating a ripple effect of safety and prevention beyond the incident itself.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In the U.S., 100 million people suffer from neck or back conditions every year according to the CDC. Back pain is the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. In addition, those with back and neck pain are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

The National Spine Health Foundation, located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives. For over two decades, the Foundation has increased its commitment to and has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research work to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence.

To further address the complex challenges of spinal health, the Foundation has created four specialized task forces led by experts in their fields.

The Opioid Task Force which has advanced research on minimizing opioid use while still optimizing pain relief.

The Bone Health Task Force promotes bone health screening protocols, research, and public education.

The Military & Veterans Task Force works to ensure that service members and veterans receive advanced, appropriate spine care.

Finally, the Motion Preservation Task Force ensures patients and providers have access to lifechanging motion-preserving procedures, focusing on artificial disc replacement.

The Foundation continues to be strongly committed to spine health research. Patient reported outcomes have long been part of fabric of NSHF since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based healthcare decisionmaking, it is important to be part of the process of creating the evidence. Their cloud-based research tool called ‘Spine-online’ enables them to conduct multi-center studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally. Active studies are currently occurring on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, a genetic basis for personalized spine treatments, stem cell therapy, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health and thanking the NSHF and the healthcare providers who help spine and neck patients, not just in October, but all year long.

RECOGNIZING THE TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the completion of Tombigbee Electric Cooperative's commitment to bring reliable, high-speed fiber internet access to more than 100,000 residents in Northwest Alabama.

Tombigbee Electric Cooperative was established to meet the need for electricity among

citizens in the rural areas of Northwest Alabama. Since its founding in 1941, Tombigbee has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to serving its community and strengthening the area it surrounds. Over the decades, the cooperative has provided safe and provide safe and reliable electric power and fiber-to-the-home internet.

In 2017, Tombigbee Electric Cooperative set forth an ambitious goal to provide high-quality, high-speed internet service to 100,000 people across Northwest Alabama. Today, that goal has been achieved.

Through the installation of more than 4,200 miles of fiber and a total investment of \$145 million, made possible by \$37 million in state and federal grants, as well as a \$100 million investment by the cooperative itself, Tombigbee Electric Cooperative has delivered on its promise to bridge the digital divide for rural Alabamians.

Mr. Speaker, this milestone represents more than the completion of a project, it signifies a lasting investment in the prosperity and potential of rural communities. Thousands of citizens will now reap the benefits of this achievement, including expanded educational opportunities, strengthened economic development, improved access to health care, and an enhanced quality of life for countless families and businesses.

Tombigbee Electric Cooperative has demonstrated that when vision, leadership, and commitment to community are combined, meaningful progress can be made.

This accomplishment serves as a reminder that rural America must never be left behind. I commend Tombigbee Electric Cooperative for its steadfast dedication and leadership, and I look forward to seeing the continued benefits this investment will bring to the people of Northwest Alabama.

HONORING LA SHELLE DOZIER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 6, 2025

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the career and legacy of La Shelle Dozier as she retires from her position as executive director of the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), where she has served my constituents for over twenty-three years. I ask all of my colleagues to join me to acknowledge her distinguished career.

Since first joining SHRA in 2002, La Shelle has been integral to the agency's operations and has had a transformative effect on affordable housing opportunities in Sacramento. Starting as a management analyst, La Shelle quickly learned every facet of the Sacramento housing industry. She rose very quickly to managing the transformation of South Sacramento's Franklin Villa into the 360-unit Phoenix Park. She also directed resident services and oversaw the Housing Choice Voucher program that today supports more than 13,000 of my constituents with up to 100 percent of their rent needs.

La Shelle formally took leadership of SHRA in 2008, where she successfully pushed the agency to transform legacy projects into model affordable housing developments that continue to inspire communities across the country to