

Darrin is stepping down in January after leading the labor movement in Western Pennsylvania. He leaves behind a legacy as a fighter, an organizer, a coalition builder, a strategist, and a fiery champion for the dignity of hardworking people and the sanctity of the union way of life.

Darrin is tough as nails. He knows when it's time to build bridges and he knows when it's time to stand your ground and fight.

Darrin Kelly embodies so much of what Western Pennsylvania is all about: hard work, the sacred labor movement, and service to country.

While his time leading the Labor Council may be ending, I know he'll never let up for a second fighting hard for workers and this great country of ours.

I congratulate Darrin for all he has done for the labor movement in Western Pennsylvania and across America. Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate.

HONORING AZENETH CORRALES,
KARLA RIVERA, AND MADELYNN
GONZALEZ FOR THEIR ARTISTIC
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to speak on the achievements of three outstanding student artists from the Rio Grande Valley: Azeneth Corrales of Harlingen High School; Karla Rivera, a Harlingen High School South graduate now attending the University of Texas at Austin; and Madelynn Gonzalez, a St. Joseph's Academy graduate currently at Texas State University.

All three students were awarded RGV Palm Award in recognition of their artistic excellence and dedication. On September 15th, these three talented young women performed at the Noche de Gala, at the 2025 Visioning Summit: Mission Possible hosted by the National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts. The Noche de Gala is a closing celebration of the 2025 Visioning Summit and a true celebration of Latino contributions to culture and the arts.

Achievements like theirs provide a valuable opportunity to recognize talents present in the Rio Grande Valley. I am delighted to represent such creative and intelligent students who make our community proud as they excel with their artistic pursuits.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a proud community, I wish to honor Azeneth Corrales, Karla Rivera, and Madelynn Gonzalez for their dedication and achievements.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
BRUCE HARTMANN

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend Bruce Hartmann in celebration of his amazing career. Bruce is a Knoxville native who served in multiple man-

agement roles at the Knoxville News Sentinel for twenty-six years, before serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Community Relations Officer at the University of Tennessee Medical Center.

Bruce's career began in Baltimore at The Baltimore Sun, followed by stints in Massachusetts at The Lowell Sun and in New Hampshire at The Nashua Telegraph. Finally settling down in Knoxville, he began work at E.W. Scripps Company, becoming the youngest President and Publisher of the Company at 36 years old. He oversaw the construction of the new Knoxville News Sentinel headquarters in 2001 and has been an integral part of the success of the News Sentinel.

Most recently, Bruce has served the Knoxville community at the University of Tennessee Medical Center. He has helped the hospital secure more than 60 million dollars in grants for the advancement of patient care. He also helped establish the Fentress County Emergency Department and was a true pioneer of rural healthcare in East Tennessee.

Perhaps more importantly, Bruce has a wonderful wife, Tami, and together they have raised an amazing family. Tami and Bruce have been married for 44 years with three children and eight grandchildren. I am thankful for Bruce, his commitment to East Tennessee, and his advocacy for the University of Tennessee. We wish him all the best in retirement.

HONORING BRANDI SWINDELL AS
A 2025 SHE LEADS AMERICA
CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINC-
TION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brandi Swindell as a 2025 She Leads America Young Christian Woman of Distinction award recipient.

Brandi Swindell is an internationally recognized speaker, human rights advocate, and the Founder and CEO of Stanton Healthcare International and the Stanton Public Policy Center. For nearly 30 years, she has been a bold voice—empowering women, standing with the marginalized, and protecting human rights in the womb.

Stanton Healthcare operates accredited women's health care clinics across the United States and internationally, providing exceptional pro-life medical care, resources, and hope to women facing unexpected pregnancies. The Stanton Public Policy Center, based on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., is a women's advocacy and educational organization addressing issues of human rights and justice that inspire and equip women nationally and globally.

Brandi's public policy work includes testifying before Congress on women's pro-life health care, receiving a White House invitation to discuss the role of life-affirming clinics, and advancing legislation to protect women and the unborn.

Her unwavering faith in Jesus Christ is the foundation of her life and leadership. It shapes her vision, sustains her courage, and directs her pursuit of justice for the most vulnerable.

In recognition of her leadership and devotion, she is being honored as a 2025 She Leads America Christian Woman of Distinction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

HONORING PETTY OFFICER FIRST
CLASS DONALD RHODES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer First Class Donald Rhodes, a proud native of Jackson, Mississippi, for his outstanding service aboard the USS *Delbert D. Black*, a United States Navy warship stationed in Mayport, Florida.

A 2014 graduate of Raymond High School, Petty Officer Rhodes enlisted in the Navy ten years ago with a vision to save his country and broaden his horizons. Today, as a Culinary Specialist, he is entrusted with ensuring the health and readiness of his shipmates—a role that underscores the critical importance of every sailor aboard a modern warship.

He has often spoken of the values that have guided him in uniform: the importance of speaking up, seeking help when necessary, and consistently showing up with commitment and integrity. His leadership has extended beyond the deck of his ship, as he returned to Jackson to serve as a recruiter, opening doors of opportunity for the next generation of sailors.

Serving aboard a guided-missile destroyer equipped with advanced weaponry—including Tomahawk missiles, torpedoes, guns, and a Phalanx close-in weapons system—Petty Officer Rhodes plays a vital role in maintaining our Navy's readiness and ensuring our nation's security.

Mr. Speaker, Petty Officer Rhodes stands as a testament to the strength, resilience, and determination of Mississippians who choose the path of service. His story not only honors his family and community, but also inspires young people across our state and nation to pursue excellence, service and leadership.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Petty Officer First Class Donald Rhodes for his dedication and sacrifice. His service reflects the very best of Mississippi and the very best of America.

REPORT (H. REPT. 119-299) TO
ACCOMPANY H. RES. 722

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the Rules Committee report (H. Rept. 119-299) to accompany House Resolution 722 should have included in its waivers of all points of order against consideration of H.R. 5371 a disclosure of the following violations:

Section 303 of the Congressional Budget, which prohibits consideration of legislation providing new budget authority, a change in revenues, or a change in the public debt limit, for

a fiscal year until the budget resolution for that year has been agreed to.

HONORING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF BROWNSVILLE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and honor that I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of the First United Church of Brownsville, a cornerstone of faith, fellowship, and service in the Rio Grande Valley. For nearly two centuries, this congregation has stood as a beacon of spiritual strength and community engagement, guiding generations of Brownsville.

Founded in 1850 by the Reverend Nehemiah Cravens, who traveled from Alabama on horseback, the First Methodist Church began its mission of service to the people of Brownsville, Texas. Over the decades, the church has grown and adapted, relocating several times before establishing its current home on Boca Chica Boulevard in 1974. Through every chapter of its history, the church has remained committed to serving God and neighbor.

Among its many contributions, the church founded the Good Neighbor Settlement House in the early 1950s, a ministry that provides meals, shelter, and care to the homeless and migrant populations of Brownsville. This enduring service reflects the congregation's deep commitment to compassion toward the community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful South Texas, I congratulate the First United Methodist Church of Brownsville on its 175th anniversary. I commend the church's clergy and all members past and present for their enduring devotion to faith and community. May their light continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

HONORING ALEXA PENAVERGA AS A SHE LEADS AMERICA CHRISTIAN WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexa PenaVega as a 2025 She Leads America Young Christian Woman of Distinction award recipient.

Alexa PenaVega is an actress, author, and producer whose career began at just four years old. Known for her breakout role in the Spy Kids franchise and dozens of film and television projects since, Alexa has grown up in the entertainment industry. Over the years, her journey as a wife, mother, and follower of Jesus has reshaped not only how she lives her personal life but also how she approaches her professional calling.

As Alexa's faith deepened, a noticeable shift took place in the types of projects she chose

to pursue. Together with her husband, Carlos, she founded Good For You Entertainment, a production company committed to creating high-quality content with the Kingdom at its core.

In recognition of her faith-driven leadership and positive influence, Alexa is being honored as a She Leads America Christian Woman of Distinction. This distinction reflects her dedication to living out her calling with integrity, courage, and Kingdom purpose.

For Alexa, faith is not separate from her art—it is the lens through which she views every decision. She believes storytelling has the power to inspire change, build community, and point people toward His light in a world often overwhelmed by darkness. Her work today is an extension of her walk with God.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this outstanding woman of distinction.

CONGRATULATING GERALDINE "BUBBY" LITVIN SHAFFER ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MORGAN McGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday October 8, 2025

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life and centennial milestone of Geraldine "Bubby" Litvin Shaffer, who celebrates her 100th birthday on October 28, 2025.

Born in 1925, Geraldine has lived a life centered on faith, service, and love for her family. Together with her beloved husband, Louis Shlomo Leib Litvin, she raised five children, and today, she is the proud grandmother to over 100 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including Jewish leaders in America, Cyprus, and Israel.

Geraldine's devotion to her family is equaled only by her commitment to her community. In Boston, she distinguished herself as both an entrepreneur and education activist. While running a shoe store, she also headed the board of a Jewish school, working tirelessly for its success. In recent years, she has made her home in Kentucky, where she became a matriarch for her entire community. Known for her kindness and generosity, she volunteers her time and reaches out to all with warmth and care. She is a dedicated student of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, and is a devout Jew and incredibly proud American.

Mr. Speaker, Geraldine "Bubby" Litvin Shaffer's century of life stands as a remarkable testament to her resilience, faith, and love for others. I ask my esteemed colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to please join me in celebrating her 100th birthday and wishing her continued joy surrounded by family and community.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR INTERIM APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS WITH RESPECT TO ANY FISCAL YEAR FOR WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR THE COMMISSIONS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce a bill that would exempt from federal government shutdowns the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP) and the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA). This bill is modeled on a provision I have gotten enacted each year since the 2013 federal government shutdown to exempt the District of Columbia government from federal government shutdowns.

NCP and CFA are both closed during the current federal government shutdown. Although NCP and CFA are both federal agencies, they have a significant role in local D.C. land-use decisions. This bill would allow these agencies to reopen during the current shutdown and to exempt them from future shutdowns to prevent interruptions in local D.C. land-use decisions during federal government shutdowns. I have separately introduced bills to remove the authority NCP and CFA have over local D.C. land-use decisions. Until Congress passes those bills, the agencies should be exempt from federal government shutdowns.

Under federal law, NCP has approval authority for the development of D.C.-owned buildings located in the "central area," including the location, height, bulk, number of stories and size of such buildings. D.C. is required to consult with NCP on the development of D.C.-owned buildings outside the central area, but NCP has only advisory authority in those areas. The central area is defined by the concurrent action of NCP and the D.C. Council and currently consists of the Downtown and Shaw Urban Renewal Areas.

Under presidential executive orders (EOs) and federal law, CFA has review authority for D.C.-owned parks and buildings, as well as for certain private land in D.C. Under EOs, CFA has review authority for the design of D.C.-owned parks and buildings. Under the Shipstead-Luce Act, CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in D.C. "adjacent to public buildings and grounds of major importance," such as Rock Creek Park and the Potomac riverfront. Under the Old Georgetown Act, CFA has review authority for the design of private buildings in the part of Georgetown referred to as "Old Georgetown" in the act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.