volunteer, and leader of numerous school organizations. From coaching at Hercules Middle School to advocating for families, she has always focused on uplifting others.

In 2020, her dedication culminated in her election to the WCCUSD School Board, where she has found one of her greatest joys serving the community as Trustee. Since taking office, Trustee Smith-Folds has distinguished herself by an unwavering, uncompromising commitment to equity and justice. She played a pivotal role in establishing the school district's equity policies, leading with both heart and backbone to ensure education systems serve all students equitably. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Jamela Smith-Folds for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR ARTHUR WELLS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Ms. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to honor Sergeant Major Arthur Wells, who has been named South Florida Federal Employee of the Year, for his selfless service to our veterans and their families. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas Sergeant Major Wells is assistant chief of Prosthetics Service at the Bruce W. Carter, Miami VA Healthcare Systems in Miami, Florida, where he has been a compassionate, dedicated and devoted employee for 25 years;

Whereas Sergeant Major Wells has proven himself to be a leader and an advocate for all veterans and has effectively and tirelessly used his expertise to assist many veterans to obtain prosthetic limbs and devices such as electric wheelchairs, scooters, patient lifts and many other instruments to ease any vet's daily task;

Whereas Sergeant Major Wells is the president of two non-profit organizations, the South Florida Chapter of Blacks in Government (BIG) and the Army National Guard Family Support Foundation, which assists deployed soldiers' families with funds to pay bills while the soldier is overseas;

Whereas Sergeant Major Wells has received numerous accolades and awards for outstanding community service which includes helping the elderly, raising money for back-to-school supplies and college scholarships and building homes in Miami's Liberty City and Overtown neighborhoods with Habitat for Humanity;

Whereas Sergeant Major Wells is a decorated, U.S. veteran who served in numerous U.S. operations and conflicts, including the Vietnam Conflict and Operation Iraqi Freedom before his retirement in 2007 which ended 39 years of military service; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Sergeant Major Arthur Wells for his service to our country and for his dedication and commitment to our veterans, their families and to our community.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S DAY IN FLORIDA AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cámara de Comercio de Mujeres en Estados Unidos de América as it celebrates its second anniversary alongside Hispanic Women's Day on October 2, 2026.

There is no better place to celebrate entrepreneurship than in Miami. Small businesses are an essential part of our local economy. According to the United States Small Business Administration, small businesses accounted for 98.5 percent of employers and 53.6 percent of employment in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach metropolitan area in 2022. These businesses create jobs, provide essential goods and services, and help drive the continued economic growth of South Florida.

Women have become an essential part of this landscape, with more than 21,000 women-owned businesses throughout Miami-Dade. Women are not simply participating in Miami's entrepreneurial growth—they are helping drive it.

In celebrating its second anniversary and Hispanic Women's Day on October 2, 2026, Cámara de Comercio de Mujeres en Estados Unidos de América provides us with an opportunity to recognize the leadership, influence, and contributions of Hispanic women in business. Through this work, Cámara de Comercio helps women entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses and contribute to the prosperity of the communities they call home.

As the proud representative of Florida's 27th Congressional District, the heart of Miami, I am honored to celebrate the women whose vision and hard work strengthen our local economy and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cámara de Comercio de Mujeres en Estados Unidos de América on its second anniversary and for its incredible contributions to our communities in South Florida. May we continue to recognize the women who turn ideas into businesses, businesses into opportunities, and opportunities into a stronger future for Miami and our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTFUL LEADERSHIP OF DR. DAVID J. SKORTON

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. David J. Skorton, who has announced his retirement as President and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges effective in June 2027.

Since his appointment in 2019, Dr. Skorton's leadership at the AAMC has been marked by a deep commitment to advancing academic medicine, strengthening the physician workforce, training the next generation of caregivers, and improving the health of patients and communities across the country.

Dr. Skorton believes that the best path forward for medical practitioners is to possess a clear-eyed view of existing challenges and recognize that more must be done to improve the health of people everywhere.

Early during his tenure, Dr. Skorton guided AAMC through the COVID–19 pandemic, helping to bring attention to shortages of personal protective equipment in hospitals and testing shortages in academic laboratories.

Prior to joining AAMC, Dr. Skorton was the 13th Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and president of both Cornell University and the University of Iowa. As Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Skorton oversaw 19 museums, 21 libraries, the National Zoo, numerous research centers, and several education units and centers.

Dr. Skorton's background as a physician and researcher provided the foundation for his career as an academician and university administrator. As a leader in higher education, Dr. Skorton set a tone of accessibility, consultation, and compassion.

An avid musician who plays the flute and saxophone, Dr. Skorton is an ardent and nationally recognized supporter of the arts and humanities.

On behalf of constituents throughout the 13th Congressional District, I express gratitude to Dr. Skorton for his distinguished and impactful contributions to society and extend to him best wishes for a wonderful retirement.

HONORING RACHEL SHOEMAKE AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Rachel Shoemake as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Rachel, a member of IBEW Local Union 302, is a true champion for women in the trades. As the first Business Agent of her local, she has broken down countless barriers and paved the way for other women to follow. Rachel is highly respected not only by her colleagues and peers, but also by the countless tradeswomen and tradesmen who have had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her. A leader by example, she has consistently demonstrated what it means to support, encourage, and uplift others. Rachel has also consistently shown up for The Boilermaker's Women at Work Committee, generously sharing her time, experience, and mentorship to inspire others to pursue leadership within the trades. Rachel's commitment to advancing opportunities for women and her willingness to help others succeed make her an exceptional mentor and role model to women in the trades throughout the Bay Area. Moreover, her relentless advocacy has not only inspired individual growth but has also contributed to a more inclusive and supportive environment within the entire industry. I commend Rachel for her exceptional service, tireless contributions, and unwavering dedication to the community, serving as an inspiration to others. On

behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Rachel Shoemake for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ostomy Awareness Day, which will be observed on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

An ostomy can be a difficult, frightening, and deeply personal journey—not just for the individual, but for their entire family. Yet for so many, this procedure is nothing short of a second chance at life. It provides a path forward for men and women facing serious, often devastating medical challenges—including colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, traumatic injuries, and severe illnesses. These surgeries are truly lifesaving and life-restoring. They give people their lives back, allowing them to return to their jobs, care for their children, stay involved in their communities, and get back to doing what they love.

But too often, people living with an ostomy suffer in silence due to misunderstanding, stigma, and unnecessary barriers to care. Ostomy Awareness Day gives us a critical opportunity to educate the public, break down those taboos, and remind everyone that an ostomy does not define a person's worth or limit what they can achieve. Back home in Michigan, approximately 25,000 of our neighbors, friends, family members, coworkers, veterans, and community leaders are living with an ostomy. They represent the very best of Michigan—showing incredible resilience, strength, and determination in overcoming daunting health battles to live full, active lives.

We also owe a deep debt of gratitude to the dedicated support systems around them—the families, caregivers, physicians, nurses, certified ostomy nurse specialists, and healthcare professionals who walk alongside these patients every single day. Their compassion, expertise, and tireless work make a world of difference in helping patients adjust, heal, and thrive.

This year's theme, ''One Community—Stronger Together,'' hits home. It reminds us that no one should ever have to navigate a major health challenge alone. Access to quality care, peer support, and public education are essential to ensuring every individual living with an ostomy has the resources and dignity they deserve.

An ostomy is not the end of someone's story—it is the start of a healthier, more hopeful chapter. I am proud to stand with the ostomy community in Michigan and across our entire Nation, and I urge my colleagues to join me in raising awareness, ending the stigma, and celebrating these remarkable survivors.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing October 3, 2026, as Ostomy Awareness Day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HOSPITALMAN WILLIAM JAMES BARR

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero and a member of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, Hospitalman William James Barr, United States Navy, and to recognize his service, sacrifice, and enduring memory in the hearts of his family, his community, and our Nation.

William James Barr was a young man from Warminster, Pennsylvania, who answered the call to serve his country during the Vietnam War. After graduating from William Tennent High School in 1966, William went on to serve his fellow Americans as a Navy Corpsman.

In 1968, at just 19 years old, Hospitalman Barr made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Vietnam. Though his life was tragically cut short, his service and sacrifice ensured that his name would never be forgotten.

Today, decades after his passing, the people of Bucks County are honoring William in a lasting and meaningful way. Bucks County Bridge No. 140 on Valley Road, also known as Kemper Park Bridge, will be dedicated in his honor.

This dedication is more than the name of a bridge. It is a reminder to everyone who crosses it of a young Pennsylvanian who stepped forward to serve his country and gave his life in defense of others. It is a reminder that freedom comes at a cost, and that we have a responsibility to remember those who paid that price.

William's story also reminds us of the importance of a community coming together to preserve the memory of its heroes. Through this bridge dedication, future generations will have the opportunity to know his name and to understand the sacrifice of his service.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of Pennsylvania's 1st Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Hospitalman William James Barr for his service and sacrifice to our Nation. I also extend my appreciation to his family, friends, veterans, and the members of the Bucks County community who have worked to ensure that his memory continues to live on. May we always remember William James Barr, a son of Bucks County and a hero of the United States Navy.

HONORING ROBERT KERMETT WALKER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Kermett Walker, who retired after 44 years of distinguished service at several federal agencies, including the United States Post Office, United States Coast Guard, Department of the Navy and most recently NOAA under the United States Department of Commerce. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Mr. Walker has been an active member and leader in the local Chapter of Blacks In Government and has also represented his agency in the Combined Federal Campaign, one of the largest workplaces giving programs in the country; and

Whereas Mr. Walker used his knowledge as Computer Analyst to help improve the efficiency of governmental agencies and their effectiveness to serve the public; and whereas, Mr. Walker takes great pride in sharing his wisdom with young people to positively contribute to their growth and development; and

Whereas Mr. Walker takes great pride in sharing his wisdom with young people to positively contribute to their growth and development; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend Mr. Robert Kermett Walker for his dedication to his profession, and his commitment to passing on his expertise to younger generations. A message, for his devotion to his family and his congregation and for his dedication to our community.

HONORING LISA LACY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Lisa Lacy as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Lisa is a dedicated member of the Antioch community who works tirelessly to protect and care for the local feral cat population of Antioch. Starting her days in the early hours of the morning, Lisa works to trap, transport, house, and medicate feral cats across Antioch. She has worked to prepare formerly feral cats for their new lives in loving homes through trap, neuter, and return efforts. Lisa has helped to create a more humane environment for our feline friends and those who enjoy their company.

To educate and empower her fellow Antioch community members, Lisa created the Scruffy to Fluffy information page. Community members can find adoptable cats, as well as information on how best to deal with those that are feral. Many community members have turned to her after receiving litters that are too large for them to manage, with Lisa helping to arrange adoptions and other methods of care. Her work has benefited both 4-legged and human members of Antioch's community, and her dedication does not go unnoticed. Her willingness to give her time and energy to a cause that affects both animals and residents reflects the very best qualities of community service. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Lisa Lacy for her positive contributions to our community.