can have profound consequences for military readiness, return to duty, long-term mobility, and quality of life. This initiative seeks to improve education and advance strategies that help those who serve our country receive the spine care and information they need.

Research remains central to all of this work. By collaborating with physicians, researchers, and institutions, the Foundation helps generate evidence and translate new knowledge into information patients can understand and use. As innovation continues to transform the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of spinal conditions, connecting research with patient education is more important than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month and in thanking the National Spine Health Foundation, the patients and advocates who share their experiences, the researchers advancing our understanding of spinal conditions, and the health care professionals who care for spine patients every day.

HONORING CHRISTINE DEAN 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 Christine Dean as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Christine has dedicated decades to serving the Martinez community through civic, historical, public-safety, and remembrance efforts. A longtime member of the Martinez Historical Society Board, Christine has successfully chaired its popular Home Tour, coordinating homeowners, sponsors, and volunteers. She has also supported Martinez's national Night Out for many years, helping strengthen police-community relationships and neighborhood connections.

Christine's most remarkable achievement is her decades-long stewardship of the Yuba City Bus Tragedy Remembrance Ceremony, a profound event honoring the 28 children and their teacher who passed away in 1976. She has organized remembrance ceremonies for nearly 50 years, ensuring that families, first responders, survivors, and community members have a place to gather and reflect. Christine's lifelong commitment to Martinez reflects exceptional compassion, leadership, and dedication to preserving history, strengthening community, and honoring those who have shaped it. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Christine Dean for her positive contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING OSTOMY AWARENESS DAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. 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 and deeply personal journey, but for many individuals, it is also a second chance at life. Ostomy surgery can provide a path forward for people facing serious illnesses and conditions, including colorectal cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, traumatic injuries because of domestic abuse or military engagement, and any other number of medical challenges. These procedures can be lifesaving and life-restoring, allowing individuals to return to their families, their workplaces, their communities, and the activities they love.

Yet too often, people living with an ostomy face misunderstanding, stigma, and unnecessary barriers. Ostomy Awareness Day provides an important opportunity to educate the public, dispel misconceptions, and remind us that an ostomy does not define a person or diminish the quality of a life.

In Pennsylvania, approximately 32,500 people are living with an ostomy. They are our neighbors, friends, family members, coworkers, veterans, caregivers, students, and community leaders. Their experiences demonstrate the strength and resilience of people who have overcome significant medical challenges and continue to live full and meaningful lives.

I also want to recognize the families, caregivers, physicians, nurses, certified ostomy nurse specialists, and other health care professionals who provide essential care and support to those living with an ostomy. Their compassion and expertise make an enormous difference in helping patients adjust to life after surgery and thrive.

This year's Ostomy Awareness Day theme, ''One Community—Stronger Together,'' is a fitting reminder that no one should have to navigate life with an ostomy alone. Awareness, education, peer support, and access to quality care can help ensure that every person who needs an ostomy has the resources and support necessary to live with confidence and dignity.

On Ostomy Awareness Day, we celebrate the resilience of the ostomy community and recognize the medical advances and dedicated professionals that have made these life-saving surgeries possible. Most importantly, we affirm that an ostomy is not the end of a person's story—it can be the beginning of a healthier and more hopeful chapter.

I am proud to stand with the Pennsylvania ostomy community and with ostomy communities across our Nation. I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to join me in raising awareness, breaking down stigma, and celebrating those whose lives have been saved and restored through ostomy surgery.

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

HONORING SERGEANT THOMAS PHILIP HIXON

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 Miami-Dade Police Sergeant Thomas Philip Hixon, who retired after 25 years of outstanding service to our community and to young men, as a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Sergeant Hixon, a highly skilled and well-respected law enforcement officer, rose from the ranks of police officer to investigator and to supervisor over his 25-year career; and

Whereas Sergeant Hixon was assigned to the Homicide Bureau, Robbery Bureau, the Public Housing and Urban Development Unit, as well as the Carol City and Intracoastal District, where he investigated thousands of criminal cases that led to the successful prosecution of scores of defendants; and

Whereas Sergeant Hixon has received more than 80 letters of commendation. was the recipient of the 2004 United States Attorney's Office Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award, and has received numerous other accolades, including the Employee Excellence Award and Officer of the Month Award; and

Whereas Sergeant Hixon has worked to make Miami-Dade County safer for residents and visitors, and has helped to improve the lives of the less fortunate; and

Whereas Sergeant Hixon is a dedicated mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, working to improve the odds for at-risk young; 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 retiring Miami-Dade County Police Sergeant Thomas Philip Hixon for his dedication, commitment and untiring service to our community.