Geran as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year, Annisha Geran, a devoted mother of four and an involved community member, inspires those around her. Driven by her dedication to her children's and the community's education, Annisha has remained actively engaged in the Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD). She has served as vice president on the school site council at Pittsburg High School for the past two terms and has participated in many PUSD parent classes, including PIQE, Serenamente, and Parent Project. She also founded Parent Appreciation Night at Pittsburg High School, now in its third year.

As a working mother, Annisha has also led by example, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science from Chico State, where she earned the Billie Jackson Award honoring the top African American Scholar at the university. Also, as an alumna of Los Medanos College, she received the college's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Emerging Leadership Award in 2025, highlighting the impact of her advocacy and leadership throughout Pittsburg.

Annisha has transformed personal hardship into fuel and a commitment to uplifting and empowering others. Her perseverance is inspiring and encourages others to seek support and accomplish their goals. Annisha is a role model in her community and a true symbol of both strength and determination. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Annisha Geran for her positive contributions to our community.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOUNT OLIVETTE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary celebration of Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church, a historic landmark in Miami, Florida's Overtown community.

The church was founded by the late Reverend S.A. Sampson on October 12, 1912 in the home of Reverend Sampson's brother, Nathaniel Sampson. Nathaniel Sampson is listed as one of the pioneers of the church along with Julia Dean, Remalia Ellis, Richard Johnson, Francis Smith, Albert Taylor and Ellen Ward. Reverend Sampson's 16 year old daughter Irene Sampson was the recording secretary.

The congregation later moved to Mrs. Powell's schoolhouse on Avenue G and Woods Street, which is now Northwest 11th Street and 2nd Avenue. The church bell would ring from a pine tree to alert the congregation and the community about Sunday services, deaths and funerals.

In 1915, Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church relocated to its present site, at 1450 Northwest 1st Court. The church is now under the leadership of Reverend Franklin R. Clark, who was installed on August 12, 1979.

Since its founding in 1912, Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church has served as a cornerstone of the community. From humble beginnings, to one of the most respected churches in Miami's Overtown community, Mount Olivette continues to inspire and positively impact our community, through its spiritual, educational, cultural and social programs.

I am honored to pay tribute to Mount Olivette Missionary Baptist Church as it celebrates its 100th anniversary and a century of dedication and commitment to its members and Miami's Overtown community.

HONORING PATRICIA DONOHUE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Patricia Donohue for her extensive service across both the public and private sectors. Ms. Donohue is the Emerging Technology Program Manager within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment. She is responsible for identifying meaningful technology pilot opportunities and driving resilience, sustainability, and innovation for U.S. Army building systems, energy and water infrastructure, microgrids, and energy storage. In this role, she has successfully steered Research and Development resources for critical Army strategic initiatives implementation.

With over thirty years of cradle-to-grave engineering and construction management experience, Ms. Donohue has built a career on transforming complex technical challenges into programs that safeguard our installations, secure our energy and water infrastructure, and mitigate both physical and cyber risks. She actively represents the Army on several interagency working groups, helping to develop policy and guidance, and collaborates with national laboratories on matters of national concern. Her steadfast leadership has included portfolio performance reviews, oversight of national programs, construction management of major system projects, and the inspection and operation of facilities. Her technical experience encompasses the development of vertical and horizontal construction projects, energy management, hydrogeological and geotechnical investigations, and environmental assessments. Her previous work includes establishing centers of expertise in Microgrids, Building Commissioning, and stormwater management site development during her time with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring my constituent, Ms. Donohue, for her remarkable career and contributions to the Army as a skilled engineer with a commitment to public service.

RECOGNIZING DIANNA THIMJON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize DiAnna Thimjon, a remarkable woman who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship, leadership, and service. After graduating high school, DiAnna attended the United States Military Academy and served our Nation in the United States Army as an intelligence officer. Following her military service, she entered the private sector, applying the leadership and analytical skills she developed at West Point to help businesses thrive. She currently serves as an Executive Partner at Garner, a leading information and technology research company.

DiAnna continues her commitment to service through my Military Academy Nominations Board, where she interviews prospective candidates and provides thoughtful recommendations as I consider nominations to our nation's service academies. A proud wife and mother, DiAnna has instilled the values of service and leadership in her children. Her son, Benjamin, has followed in her footsteps by serving our country.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask my colleagues to join me in commending DiAnna Thimjon for her dedication and hard work throughout the Military Academy nominations process. Her service to the United States, the state of Missouri, and the people of Missouri's Sixth Congressional District is deeply appreciated, and I am proud to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE 2026 USA BIOLYMPIAD GOLD MEDALISTS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding 2026 USA Biolympiad (USABO) team and to recognize and congratulate the Gold Medal recipients from Washington's Ninth Congressional district: Emma Li (Lakeside School), Seattle, Washington and Kevin Wu (BASIS Independent), Bellevue, Washington.

From an initial pool of nearly 12,800 registered students from 46 states, these Gold Medalists earned the right to represent the United States as the USA Biolympiad Team at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO), a worldwide competition involving student teams from over seventy countries. After completing various practical and theoretical exams designed to test students' critical thinking in laboratory skills and biological reasoning, all four members on the USA team were awarded a Gold Medal at the 37th International Biolympiad. This incredible achievement speaks to the hard work and dedication of our nation's finest young high school scholars who will go on to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

I thank the Center for Excellence in Education for sponsoring the USABO, and I wish Emma and Kevin all the best in their future endeavors. Congratulations to them on their win.

HONORING MINISTER GARY D. JOHNSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Ms. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Minister Gary D. Johnson, a well-respected religious leader and dedicated community and international activist.

Minister Johnson is a member of 93rd Street Community Baptist Church in Miami and has been a lifelong champion for justice and quality of life for all people. He has served as a key liaison between Miami-Dade County's Christian community and local and statewide government officials to create public policy, programs and coalitions that address the needs and social well-being of our community.

Minister Johnson co-founded the non-profit organization United for Family Values Foundation, and as its director has worked to establish a partnership between community organizations, law enforcement agencies and residents. The goal being to combat and reduce violence in South Florida's urban communities, find alternatives for at-risk youth, and steer them toward getting an education or seek gainful employment.

Because of his reputation as a consensus builder and his tireless work to strengthen the leadership role of faith-based organizations, Minister Johnson was appointed Faith Outreach Director for the State of Florida for President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign.

To continue the work he began as Faith Outreach Director, Minister Johnson founded the non-profit organization Clergy for Change, and continues to build upon the role of the church as a center for resources, direction and advocacy.

Please join me in honoring Minister Gary D. Johnson for his commitment, dedication and service to our community.

HONORING MICHAEL A. AARON

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael A. Aaron for more than 30 years of fire and rescue service, serving the people of Northwest Florida and along the Gulf Coast.

Since beginning his career in 1994, Michael has answered the call to serve in volunteer county, municipal, and federal fire-service roles. For more than three decades, he has put others before himself and helped protect the communities he calls home.

Michael recently earned his Chief Fire Officer designation from the Commission on Professional Credentialing and will graduate from Columbia Southern University on October 23 with a Bachelor of Science in Fire Department Administration, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 GPA.

I am proud to recognize Michael for a career built on service, public safety, sacrifice, and a commitment to his fellow Americans. We owe a debt of gratitude to men and women like Michael who choose to serve and protect their communities.

I thank Michael for 30 years of answering the call.

HONORING GAIL KLAPPER ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JEFF HURD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gail Klapper for her remarkable tenure leading the Colorado Forum.

The Forum is a nonpartisan group of 75 to 80 CEOs and community leaders from across Colorado who take on some of the most difficult issues facing our state—from energy development and environmental protection, to water, health care, and education.

What makes the Forum unusual is that it takes a position only when its members reach unanimity. That requires more than talking points. It requires serious analysis, honest disagreement, and a willingness to work toward practical solutions. Under Gail's leadership, that approach made the Colorado Forum a trusted resource for policymakers on both sides of the aisle.

I had the privilege of serving as a member of the Forum and seeing Gail's leadership firsthand. She had a rare ability to bring people with different perspectives together and keep them focused on solving problems.

Gail did more than convene leaders. She helped build a culture of thoughtful, principled civic leadership in Colorado.

On behalf of Colorado's Third District and the entire State of Colorado, I thank Gail for her service and congratulate her on an extraordinary career.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JUAN MANUEL ESCOBAR

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life of Juan Manuel Escobar, a native South Texan whose life was defined by integrity, valor, and an unwavering commitment to helping others.

Mr. Escobar was a proud veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He enlisted at age 19 and served proudly with the 1st Marine Division in Vietnam. His dedication and strong character earned him selection as a Marine body bearer and member of the Presidential Honor Guard. These qualities continued to define his service in theater, where he was wounded in action and awarded the Purple Heart in recognition of his courage and sacrifice.

After his honorable discharge, Mr. Escobar continued his education at Pan American University before beginning a career as a teacher and football coach at Rio Grande City High School. In the classroom and on the field, he became a dedicated mentor and role model for countless young people.

Mr. Escobar carried that same sense of duty into a 25-year career with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. While in this role, he took on critical assignments, including serving as the Patrol Agent in Charge of the Kingsville Station and as a Senior Special Agent with the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Mr. Escobar continued serving his community through elected office, representing District 43 in the Texas House of Representatives, and later as Kleberg County Judge.

Beyond the positions he held, Mr. Escobar remained a devoted husband and father. His life was guided by a commitment to family, mentorship, and a desire to make a difference in the lives of those around him.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas's 34th Congressional District, I am proud to honor Juan Manuel Escobar for his extraordinary life of service, sacrifice, and excellence. South Texas is better place because of him, and I am thankful for the lasting mark he left on our community.

HONORING ORA B. BENDROSS

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of South Florida's most beloved citizens, the late Mrs. Ora B. Bendross, who was affectionately known by many as ''Nana.''

Mrs. Bendross was known throughout the Miami-Dade County community as the lady with the enormous heart, who never ever met a stranger. Many in the South Florida community have experienced her kindness and generosity, and her home, became a refuge for some of today's most well-known community leaders. Those who knew her best will remember her open invitation to ''stop by and have dinner with my family.'' Mrs. Bendross adored her children and taught each of them the importance of an education.

As a dedicated member of the Historic Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church and later Bible Missionary Baptist Church, she served on several missionary boards, sang in the choir, served on an usher board and was fully committed to serving the Lord.

Mrs. Bendross is preceded in death by her husband of 63 years Mr. Willie J. Bendross, and three of her seven children: Donald Bendross, Dallas Bendross and Joyce Bendross Forchion. She leaves to carry on her legacy her children; Pinnie (Patricia) Bendross, James Bendross, Dr. Dorothy Bendross Mindingall, Bennie (Yvonne) Bendross and a host of grandchildren, great-great and great-great-great grandchildren.

Please join me in honoring the late Mrs. Ora B. Bendross for her unwavering faith and commitment to her family and her community.

HONORING WOMEN OF THE YEAR: ROCIO HERNÁNDEZ

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 5, 2026

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Dr. Rocio