the lives one touches and the love one leaves behind. His legacy lives on in the congregation he shepherded, the young men and women he mentored, the students he helped send to college, the families he served, his fraternity brothers, and most of all, the family he loved so dearly.

He leaves his wife, Felita Ford Granby; his children, Martine, Kyle, and Jordenn; his grandchildren, Lilie-Rae, Charlotte-Rose, and Chase; his parents, Samuel Granby, Jr. and Ayris Granby; his sister, Ayris; his aunt, Catherine Holley; his uncle, Howard Evans; and a host of cousins, extended family, dear friends, and fraternity brothers to cherish his memory. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Reverend Lamont S. Granby. May he rest in peace, and may God comfort and strengthen his family.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LA PORTE AS THE 2026 YAMAHA COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of La Porte, Indiana, on being named the 2026 Yamaha Community of the Year by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce.

Each year, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce recognizes an outstanding community for its efforts to enhance the quality of life for residents while creating opportunities for the success of its local businesses. This year, the Chamber highlighted La Porte's efforts toward that goal, under the leadership of Mayor Tom Dermody and local government leaders, in collaboration with its many business, educational, and nonprofit partners.

La Porte is demonstrating what can be accomplished when government, businesses, community organizations, and residents share a vision and collectively act to turn a vision into reality. This honor is especially meaningful as it recognizes more than economic growth or new development—it recognizes a community working together to set a foundation for a stronger future for its residents, to create opportunities for local businesses, and to preserve the quality of life that makes La Porte a place to call home.

We see this commitment in the investments being made in the local economy, the development of new housing, the revitalization of downtown and surrounding neighborhoods, and the continued investments in parks and public spaces that bring people together. These efforts are important because economic development is about more than attracting investments, it is also about creating good-paying jobs and opportunities for working families, supporting small business, and ensuring the next generation has opportunities to build their future here in Northwest Indiana.

I congratulate Mayor Dermody, his administration, the La Porte City Council, and all economic development partners, business leaders, community organizations, and everyone whose dedicated efforts have led to this honor and contribute to La Porte's success. La Porte's recognition is a testament to what can be achieved when a community embraces its potential.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my distinguished colleagues join me in commending the City of La Porte on its well-deserved recognition as the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Yamaha Community of the Year.

HONORING RYAN P. HAYGOOD FOR HIS DEDICATION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

HON. ANALILIA MEJIA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Ms. MEJIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ryan P. Haygood for his extraordinary contributions to civil rights, racial justice, and his efforts to advance equality throughout New Jersey and across our Nation.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Ryan led efforts to address systemic inequality and strengthen communities throughout our state. Under his leadership, the Institute advanced measures to ensure all communities do more than survive, they thrive. Ryan tirelessly advocated for New Jersey's $15 minimum wage, automatic voter registration, and the restoration of voting rights to approximately 83,000 residents on probation or parole. His advocacy contributed to ending prison-based gerrymandering and expanded opportunities for historically underserved communities.

Ryan's leadership has transformed New Jersey. He advanced critical criminal justice reforms, including efforts to close New Jersey's youth prisons and expanded community-based alternatives to incarceration. Under his leadership, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice has worked to address racial disparities in housing and economic opportunity, advocated for greater access to homeownership, and established the New Jersey Reparations Council in order to examine the lasting impacts of slavery and systemic discrimination.

Ryan Haygood is no stranger to the fight for justice. Prior to leading the Institute, Ryan served as Deputy Director of Litigation at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, working on landmark civil rights cases defending voting rights and challenging discriminatory practices. Today, he continues his commitment to justice as President and Chief Executive Officer of the much-lauded Southern Poverty Law Center.

Today I rise to celebrate Ryan Haygood's remarkable contributions to our state and to uplift his unwavering commitment to equality, opportunity, and justice. His leadership and advocacy will strengthen our democracy and will help build a more just and equitable future for all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ryan P. Haygood for his extraordinary service to New Jersey and our Nation. His leadership and advocacy have strengthened our democracy and helped build a more just and equitable future for all.

HONORING AVERY M. JOHNSON AS OHIO'S 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Avery M. Johnson as Ohio's 11th Congressional District's Veteran of the Year and to honor his distinguished record of service to our Nation, our veterans, and the communities of Northeast Ohio.

Mr. Johnson served honorably in the United States Army from 1982 to 1992, including during the Persian Gulf War, before continuing his service in the Ohio Army National Guard from 1993 to 2005. As a Platoon Sergeant, he served in positions of significant responsibility, including during the response to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and during a deployment in support of the Iraq War from 2003 to 2004.

During his deployment to Iraq, Mr. Johnson served as a Platoon Sergeant and Police Station Commander, overseeing critical responsibilities that included VIP escort missions, force protection, and the training of Iraqi police forces. His leadership, sacrifice, and distinguished military service earned him the Bronze Star Medal for combat operations in Iraq and the Ohio Distinguished Service Medal.

Mr. Johnson's commitment to service did not end when he took off the uniform. He brought the same dedication, leadership, and sense of responsibility that defined his military career back home to Northeast Ohio.

Throughout his civilian life, Mr. Johnson has worked to strengthen his community through housing advocacy, public health education, neighborhood improvement, and support for fellow veterans. He helped lead residents of East 102nd Street in Garfield Heights in advocating for major infrastructure improvements to address years of neighborhood flooding. He has also continued to serve as an advocate for veterans, helping fellow servicemembers access the benefits they earned and remaining active in the American Legion.

His commitment to public service also led him to the Garfield Heights City Council. Mr. Johnson was appointed to Council in 2021 and subsequently elected by the residents he serves, in 2023, his colleagues selected him to serve as President of City Council, making him the first African American to hold that position since Garfield Heights was founded in 1919. He continues to serve the residents of Ward 4 and the broader Garfield Heights community.

The Ohio 11th Congressional District Veteran of the Year Award recognizes a veteran whose service did not end with military service but instead evolved into a continued commitment to others. Mr. Johnson embodies that principle. He has served our country in uniform and has continued to serve here at home by mentoring, advocating, leading, and strengthening his community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Avery M. Johnson on being named the Ohio 11th Congressional District Veteran of the Year and in thanking him for a lifetime of service to our Nation and the people of Northeast Ohio.

RECOGNIZING COURTNEY HEITKAMP

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and thank Courtney Heitkamp, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for her eight years of dedication and service to the State of South Dakota. Courtney served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and State Director, leading my in-state team and serving as a trusted advisor.

Her leadership developed and maintained exceptional team stability in the South Dakota district offices. She became a mentor to many staff members and provided a strategic vision for the state operation, including exceptional constituent services and engagement programs.

Courtney's strategic thinking was critical in establishing my offices procedures, operations, and programs. She established the bipartisan, bicameral Israel casework coordination channel, which grew to a 250-particant limit.

She executed major district events including trade and tariff events, town halls, district work period schedules, and policy roundtables which provided immense value to South Dakotans.

She was an effective bridge between the South Dakota and Washington, D.C. offices and encouraged improved collaboration and coordination across the team. In addition to leading a strong team, Courtney's successfully balanced increasingly complex communication and management duties.

I am grateful for Courtney's years of service to the people of South Dakota and for her commitment to public service.