

belief that ordinary people—when organized and supported—could reshape their communities. His work extended beyond voter registration to broader efforts aimed at economic justice, political participation, and local empowerment in the Mississippi Delta.

Following the height of the civil rights movement, Mr. McLaurin made Indianola his home, continuing to serve the community through public service and civic engagement. His story, preserved through oral history by the Library of Congress Civil Rights History Project, stands as a powerful testament to the bravery of grassroots organizers whose names may not always appear in textbooks, but whose impact is woven into the fabric of American democracy.

Mr. Speaker, Charles McLaurin's legacy is one of quiet heroism, moral clarity, and unwavering dedication to equality under the law. I am honored to ensure his contributions, his work, and sacrifice are recognized for future generations.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed the vote series on February 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 58, final passage of H.R. 1531, PROTECT Taiwan Act; and YEA on Roll Call No. 57, final passage of H.R. 6644, Housing for the 21st Century Act.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RONALD O'ROURKE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take a moment to honor an extraordinary public servant and pay special tribute to Ronald O'Rourke for his 42 years of service to Congress and the American people as a Specialist in Naval Affairs at the Congressional Research Service, or CRS. Mr. O'Rourke began his service with CRS on January 17, 1984, and retired on January 31, 2026.

Mr. O'Rourke is a foremost expert in naval affairs, whose writing draws admiration and attention from Congress and defense journalism alike. Throughout his career at CRS, he regularly briefed Members of Congress and their personal staff, committee staff, and testified before congressional committees on topics pertaining to naval and defense policy. The Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces most recently received Mr. O'Rourke's testimony in March 2025, where he spoke to the state of U.S. shipbuilding. His tenure at CRS provided him insight into many iterations of the U.S. Navy, from the shipbuilding slump of the Post-Cold War era to the modern reinvigoration of the U.S. maritime industrial base.

Mr. O'Rourke wrote many reports for Congress on various issues relating to the Navy, Coast Guard shipbuilding, the shipbuilding industrial base, China's naval forces and other

foreign navies, U.S.-China strategic competition in the South and East China seas, U.S. defense strategy, defense acquisition policy including block-buy contracting and multi-year procurement, the international security environment including the U.S. role in the world, and the Arctic. Mr. O'Rourke's annual publishing on Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding is a touchstone of his contributions to this institution—and is a personal favorite of mine.

He has presented at CRS's New Member Seminar, an orientation for new Members of Congress in Williamsburg, Virginia, regularly participated in CRS's annual defense budget seminar for congressional staff, and presented at various other CRS programs.

Mr. O'Rourke has been repeatedly recognized for his expertise, professionalism, and dedication to public service. In 1996, he received a Distinguished Service Award from the Library of Congress for his service to Congress on naval issues. In 2010, he was honored under the Great Federal Employees Initiative for his work on naval, strategic, and budgetary issues. In 2012, he received the CRS Director's Award for his outstanding contributions in support of the Congress and the mission of CRS.

During his tenure at CRS, he has mentored numerous colleagues on various aspects of defense policy analysis, from serving as a critical source of institutional memory on past debates to hosting brownbag lunches on ways to organize written products. In 2017, he received the Superior Public Service Award from the Navy for service in a variety of roles at CRS while providing analysis of benefit to the Navy for a period spanning decades. He is the author of several journal articles on naval issues and is a past winner of the U.S. Naval Institute's Arleigh Burke essay contest.

Mr. O'Rourke is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Johns Hopkins University, where he received his B.A. in International Studies, and a valedictorian graduate of the University's Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, where he received his M.A. in the same field.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee for 19 years, I have had the privilege of working with Ron, who was always available to answer any inquiry and share his deep historical knowledge of our Nation's sea services. On behalf of the Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the American people, I express deep gratitude for Mr. O'Rourke's contributions during his more than four decades at CRS. Along with his family, friends, and colleagues, I thank him and wish him and his wife Mary Fitch all the best in retirement.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH DAKOTA'S ADAM VINATIERI ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a South Dakota football legend, Adam Vinatieri. Vinatieri, wide-

ly regarded as the greatest place kicker in the history of the National Football League, has been named a 2026 Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee. This recognition honors a remarkable career and brings great pride to South Dakotans across the state.

Born in Yankton and raised in Rapid City, Vinatieri graduated from Rapid City Central High School, where he was a standout multi-sport athlete. He went on to play college football at South Dakota State University, carrying with him the work ethic, discipline, and resilience that define so many South Dakotans. As a Jackrabbit, Vinatieri finished his collegiate career as South Dakota State's all-time leading scorer with 185 career points and awarded first-team all-conference honors in each of his seasons.

Vinatieri's professional career spanned 24 NFL seasons, primarily with the New England Patriots and Indianapolis Colts. He retired as the league's all-time leader in field goals made and points scored, and he played a decisive role in four Super Bowl championships, including a game-winning kick in Super Bowl XXXVI.

With this induction, Adam Vinatieri becomes just the second South Dakotan to enter the Pro Football Hall of Fame, joining Jim Langer of the undefeated 1972 Miami Dolphins. South Dakota proudly celebrates with him and the excellence with which he represented our state on and off the field.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISSE HOULAHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 57, H.R. 6644; and YEA on Roll Call No. 58, H.R. 1531.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, on February 9, 2026, I missed a recorded vote. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 58, the PROTECT Taiwan Act.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF ELLEN O. MOYER

HON. SARAH ELFRETH

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 90th birthday of Ellen O. Moyer, one of Annapolis's most beloved and influential public servants.

A graduate of Penn State University and the first and only woman ever elected Mayor of Annapolis, Ellen set a lasting example of leadership and integrity for young women looking to serve their community. During her years of public service, both as a member of the Annapolis City Council and later as Mayor, Ellen

worked tirelessly to preserve the character of the city, strengthen its institutions, and make Annapolis a better place for future generations.

Ellen was a driving force behind preserving Annapolis's maritime character. During her time in office, she championed maritime zoning, the creation of a Maritime Advisory Board, and laid the groundwork for the Annapolis Maritime Museum.

Ellen was also an inspiration through her work on environmental conservation. She led the creation of waterfront street-end parks, expanded walking and bike paths, and the revitalization of Back Creek Nature Park, now Ellen O. Moyer Park.

A passionate champion of the arts, Ellen helped establish the Art in Public Places program, Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, and the Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre. Among her most far-reaching economic achievements was the creation of the West Street Arts District, which evolved into one of Annapolis's most economically vibrant neighborhoods.

Annapolis would not be the same without her devotion to the city and all of its beauty. I ask that you join me and the residents of Maryland's Third Congressional District in offering well wishes and a very happy 90th birthday to Ellen O. Moyer—a trailblazer, mentor, and steward of Annapolis. We are grateful for all she has done and continues to do for our community.

HONORING FLORIDA CITRUS
SPORTS' 80 YEARS OF IMPACT

HON. MAXWELL FROST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, this month, I celebrate Florida Citrus Sports and its significant impact and dedication to communities throughout Central Florida. Since its founding in 1946, Florida Citrus Sports has committed to hosting nationally and internationally recognized events, some including the Florida Classic, the Cheezits Citrus Bowl, and several competitions that gather people from all over the world.

Florida Citrus Sports has cultivated and supported opportunities for employment, students, teachers, and communities that will continue to contribute to the elevation of all Florida residents. Celebrating 80 Years of Impact demonstrates resilience and a growing passion for community service, despite challenges faced and to come.

Through numerous partnerships and leadership, Florida Citrus Sports has invested in the future of Florida's economy, education, and countless neighborhood revitalization initiatives.

I thank Florida Citrus Sports for their 80 years of dedication and service. Their contribution has, in many ways, enhanced Central Florida's vision to maintain a strengthened, hope-filled, equitable, and innovative legacy for all future residents.

RECOGNIZING DAVID NEVILLE

HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Neville, owner of Capstone Farms in Kentucky, for receiving the prestigious 2026 Citizen Diplomat Award.

On 258 acres of land in Northern Kentucky, David has built not just a farm, but a laboratory of ingenuity. Through hydroponic and aquaponic growing systems, sustainable land management practices like using goats to clear brush, and a deep commitment to mentorship, he is helping pave the way for Kentucky farmers and farmers worldwide to build stronger, more resilient farms. His work reflects the creativity and resourcefulness that define the American spirit and helps keep our farming economy strong, innovative, and ready for the challenges ahead.

David embodies the spirit of hospitality that Kentuckians everywhere extend to our neighbors. David has opened his farm to more than 450 participants in the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program from over 100 countries to learn from his practices and spark ideas they can carry back home.

Kentucky is proud to call Mr. Neville one of our own, and I am honored to recognize his remarkable contributions to our home and the world. I once again congratulate him on receiving the Citizen Diplomat Award and wish him the best in his future work.

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING
PUERTO RICO POLICE BUREAU
MEMBERS

HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound appreciation to recognize a group of individuals who make up the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, and to commemorate Police Week in Puerto Rico.

During Police Week, observed from February 15, 2026, through February 21, 2026, we recognize the men and women of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau, an institution composed of dedicated public servants committed to safeguarding Puerto Rico and improving the quality of life of its people.

The Puerto Rico Police Bureau is made up of individuals with a strong sense of duty and a deep commitment to public service. Through coordinated administrative and operational teams, and in collaboration with state and federal agencies, the Bureau remains firmly committed to combating crime, protecting lives and property, and upholding law and order. The members of the Puerto Rico Police Bureau stand as a cornerstone of public safety and public trust.

As part of this observance, I include in the RECORD the following list recognizing officers assigned to the Puerto Nuevo Precinct 282, who distinguished themselves through exemplary performance, professionalism, and commitment to the Bureau's core values:

Supervisor of the Year 2025: Sgt. Omar López Figueroa.

Male Agent of the Year 2025: Agt. Robert Figueroa De Jesús.

Female Agent of the Year 2025: Agt. Janisel Casiano Calo.

Outstanding Captain & Lieutenant of the Year 2025: Capt. Rubén Gómez Sanabria, Lt. II José Alvarez Torres.

Outstanding Agents of the Year 2025: Agt. Griselle Vega Báez, Agt. José L. Chacón Colón, Agt. Isaias Meléndez Maldonado, Agt. Francisco Esquillin Correa, Agt. Oscar Delgado Jiménez, Agt. Nicasio Lima Candelario, Agt. José L. Ortiz Rodríguez, Agt. Norberto Otero Robles, Agt. Joelys De Jesús Ortega, Agt. Jeannette González Vázquez, Agt. Marangelly De León Sustache.

Their service reflects the highest standards of integrity, dedication, and public service.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE
JUDGE MARYELLEN HICKS

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Judge Maryellen Hicks and to recognize the renaming ceremony held in her name, a tribute to a trailblazing jurist whose legacy has profoundly shaped Tarrant County and the State of Texas. This historic occasion, led by the Black Women Lawyers Association, reflects Judge Hicks's extraordinary impact on the legal profession and her commitment to justice and public service.

Judge Hicks's distinguished career stands as a testament to perseverance, excellence, and leadership. As the first African American woman to graduate from Texas Tech University School of Law in 1974, Judge Hicks broke numerous barriers in Tarrant County, serving as the first Black female Municipal Judge, Chief Municipal Judge, Probate Court Master, District Judge of the 231st Court, and later on the Second Court of Appeals. Her service on the bench was defined by integrity, and a deep respect for the rule of law, earning her the trust and admiration of colleagues and community members alike.

Beyond her judicial service, Judge Hicks has been a dedicated mentor and role model, investing in the growth and advancement of future legal professionals. Her influence extends far beyond the courtroom, leaving an enduring mark on the legal landscape through her advocacy, guidance, and commitment to ensuring equal access to justice for all.

The decision by the Black Women Lawyers Association to formally change its name in honor of Judge Hicks reflects the magnitude of her contributions and the lasting legacy she leaves behind. This renaming not only celebrates her accomplishments but also serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of representation, leadership, and service in the pursuit of justice.

Today, as we gather to commemorate this momentous occasion, we celebrate and extend our deepest gratitude to the Honorable Judge Maryellen Hicks for her lifetime of service and the profound difference she has made in our community. Her legacy will continue to inspire generations of attorneys, judges, and leaders who strive to build a more just and equitable society.