

RECOGNIZING MRS. MARY EDITH BROWN COLEMAN'S 109TH BIRTHDAY

HON. FRANK J. MRVAN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I rise to congratulate Mrs. Mary Edith Brown Coleman as she celebrates her 109th birthday on February 13, 2026. Edith will gather with her friends and family in Schererville to commemorate this significant milestone.

Edith Brown was born on February 13, 1917, in Muskogee, Oklahoma. She was one of four children born to Luther Albert Brown and Dora Rozolia Draper Brown. Her family went on to live in Kansas City, Kansas, and after her parents passed Edith moved to the south side of Chicago, Illinois, to live with her aunt. In 1940, Edith met her husband, the late William Henry Coleman, and relocated to Gary's Midtown neighborhood.

Edith is an accomplished scholar, having earned both a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in education at Indiana University in Bloomington. After graduating, Edith pursued a career in the teaching profession where she went on to enrich the lives of thousands of young minds. For over 27 years, Edith taught students at Frederick Douglass Elementary School. She also helped connect students with scholarships through her involvement with the Women's Association of the Northwest Indiana Symphony Society and the American Association of University Women.

Outside of the classroom, Edith is an active member of the Gary community, holding memberships in the Red Hat Society and the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. She is well known for her involvement with her church, the First Church of God in Gary. In 2023, Edith was recognized by the First Church of God in Gary for her lifetime of dedicated service to the community. For over seven decades Edith has served her church in several roles, including teaching Sunday School, serving as Director of the Daily Vacation Bible School, holding memberships in the local and national Missionary Societies, singing in the church choir, serving as a deaconess, and teaching a manners class for young children.

Mr. Speaker, Edith has always given her time and efforts selflessly to the youth and the community in Northwest Indiana throughout her illustrious life. For her dedication to academic success and her commitment to empowering youth with the skills and knowledge to thrive, Edith is worthy of the highest praise. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Mary Edith Brown Coleman a very happy 109th birthday.

HONORING IMELDA SALAZAR

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Imelda Salazar, community organizer and champion of economic justice.

Imelda has been organizing communities in Chicago for twenty years. Fueled by her faith and dedication to service, I was privileged to meet her while handing out food during the pandemic. She has a deep gift for understanding people and bringing cultures together.

Hundreds of families in Chicago have safe homes to raise their families in because of her. Neighborhoods are safer and schools are better because of her tireless advocacy. My staff and I are better at our jobs because of her dedicated service to educating us on the communities she has dedicated her life to.

During the most difficult of circumstances, she has never failed to remind us all to find joy within each other. Chicago, Illinois and the United States is better because of her service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Imelda Salazar for her service in pursuit of equity in our communities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEMARIOUS "LEONE" ALLISON GRIFFIS

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Demarious "Leone" Allison Griffis, who passed away on February 5, 2026.

We are deeply saddened by her passing but are comforted by her strong faith and the meaningful life she lived.

Born in June of 1945 in Mobile, Alabama, Ms. Griffis grew up helping her family run their two restaurants, "The Stateline Drive-in," and "The Red Pig."

She loved making everyone's favorite dishes and comfort meals, and, through this, learned the value of hard work and serving others first.

Ms. Griffis worked for many years at Container Corporation before embracing her favorite role as "Nana" to her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a faithful and active member of First Assembly of God in Fernandina and lived her devotion every day.

Ms. Griffis taught her grandchildren and great-grandchildren the importance of faith and trusting in the Lord, spending plenty of time creating memories, like teaching them to fish and drive.

She will be deeply missed, but her love and legacy of kindness and compassion will live on.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF KATHRYN ANGELL

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kathryn Angell, a dedicated public servant who has spent years serving the residents of Illinois' 9th Congressional District with skill, compassion, and professionalism.

Kathryn has been a member of my staff since January 2022, after having previously served with distinction as an intern in the office. From her earliest days here, she demonstrated a deep commitment to public service and a genuine concern for the people who turned to our office for help.

In her role as a Constituent Advocate, Kathryn handled a wide range of complex and often deeply personal issues, including IRS cases, housing matters, student loan concerns, and many other challenges faced by families across the district. She approached each case with patience and determination, understanding that for many constituents, reaching out to a congressional office comes at a moment of frustration or hardship. Kathryn worked tirelessly to navigate federal agencies that can be difficult to access and slow to respond, and she never lost sight of the human impact of her work.

Constituents benefited not only from her knowledge, but from her persistence and her willingness to see cases through to resolution. My staff and I could always trust that Kathryn's work would be handled with care, diligence, and respect for the people we serve.

Over the years, Kathryn earned a strong reputation as a thoughtful, responsive, and reliable member of my team. She coordinated the office's participation in the Congressional App Challenge, engaging with high school students across the district as they learned to code and develop their first apps. Kathryn was also deeply involved in the office's congressional outreach efforts, regularly representing the office at community events and neighborhood office hours throughout the district.

As Kathryn leaves the office to pursue new opportunities, I want to express my sincere gratitude for her service. While we will miss her greatly, I am confident that she will continue to use her talents and experience to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Her experience in this office has prepared her well for whatever path she chooses to pursue next, and I am confident she will excel in any role she undertakes. I wish her every success in her future endeavors.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MICHAEL FINE

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual whose steady leadership, unwavering integrity, and unmatched expertise have strengthened the fiscal health of California's public education system. For more than four decades, Michael Fine has served as a guardian of public trust, ensuring that schools, county offices of education, and community colleges are positioned to make sound, transparent, and equitable financial decisions for the benefit of every student.

Mr. Fine's career spans a broad and distinguished range of roles, beginning in private-sector finance before moving into public education, where he served as a chief business official, deputy superintendent, and interim superintendent in districts of varying size and complexity, including the Riverside Unified

School District. These roles shaped his understanding of how governance, community expectations, and financial stewardship intersect, and they helped build the pragmatic, student-centered approach that has defined his leadership.

In 2015, Mr. Fine joined the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team as its chief administrative officer. Two years later, he became FCMAT's chief executive officer, leading the organization through a period of extraordinary growth, innovation, and modernization. Under his direction, FCMAT strengthened its statewide role as California's foremost fiscal oversight and assistance agency, supporting TK-14 institutions with tools, training, and expert guidance that have become indispensable across the state.

During his tenure, Mr. Fine oversaw the expansion and refinement of FCMAT's fiscal tools, including updates to the multiyear financial projection software, enhancements to the fiscal health risk analyses, and improvements to charter school oversight guidance. He championed increased clarity, accessibility, and transparency in all FCMAT products, ensuring that leaders—from superintendents to school board members to chief business officials—could rely on timely, accurate information to guide their decisions.

Mr. Fine also strengthened FCMAT's essential role in California's system of fiscal oversight under Assembly Bill 1200. His clear, data-driven communication with state agencies, county offices, and local educational leaders has been crucial in responding to structural deficits, declining enrollment, and rising pension, benefit, and operating costs. He is widely recognized for his candor, clarity, and willingness to address complex issues head-on, always with the goal of supporting stability and avoiding harm to students.

A defining aspect of Mr. Fine's legacy is his deep commitment to developing the next generation of fiscal and operational leaders. Under his leadership, the CBO Mentor Program expanded, diversified, and strengthened pathways for emerging leaders in both K-12 and community college systems. His belief that strong fiscal systems depend on strong people has shaped FCMAT's culture and helped elevate the value of professional learning statewide.

Within FCMAT, Mr. Fine fostered a culture rooted in collaboration, excellence, and public service. He cultivated a team of analysts, data specialists, and operational experts whose work is respected across the state. Colleagues consistently describe him as principled, steady, and deeply dedicated to the mission of supporting sound governance and fiscal solvency throughout California's education system.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Fine is a devoted husband, father, and community member. His service on local boards, commissions, and philanthropic organizations reflects the same commitment to public well-being that has guided his professional life. His belief in the power of strong, well-managed public institutions has been a constant throughout his career.

As Mr. Fine prepares to retire in 2026, his impact on California's schools and colleges will endure far beyond his tenure. The systems he strengthened, the leaders he mentored, and the culture of integrity he championed at FCMAT will continue to sup-

port stable, transparent, student-centered decision-making across the state for years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Michael Fine for his extraordinary service, his steady leadership, and his enduring contributions to California's students, families, and communities. His work has safeguarded the fiscal health of our education system and strengthened the foundation upon which our public schools depend.

HONORING AMY EMERICK CLERKIN

HON. ADELITA S. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Mrs. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amy Emerick Clerkin who has served as a dedicated staffer in the House of Representatives for 20 years.

I have known Amy for many years. She worked for my father, the late Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva, for two decades, including 16 years as his chief of staff. Throughout this time, she served as a trusted leader with the heart of a true public servant.

She has navigated the late-night votes, the procedural labyrinths, and the political systems that change in a moment's notice. And she has done it with a steady purpose that never makes the headlines but keeps the whole thing standing. She fought for wins both big and small, weathered the chaos, and held on to her sense of mission. Politics can be chaotic, but she is a calm, steady, and thoughtful leader.

In addition to leading my father's congressional office, Amy served as an advisor to the Congressional Progressive Caucus, where she spearheaded efforts to raise the Caucus's national profile, and build its power and influence within Congress.

Amy connected with people across roles, perspectives, and ideologies to make Congress a better institution. She approaches everyone with respect and a genuine interest in finding common ground. Colleagues and stakeholders readily engage with her because they trust her judgment and integrity. She has thoughtfully guided other congressional staff as they navigate the contours of policymaking.

Throughout her time on Capitol Hill, Amy dedicated herself to an office and the policies that seek to provide opportunities, resources and basic equity to communities in need. She never took the easy road or wavered in this dedication.

Amy's capabilities helped my father achieve a lasting impact for Arizona. We are thankful for her service to this great institution and for her 20 years of service to the people of Arizona.

EXPOSING ORGANIZED ANTISEMITIC NETWORK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it is sad but true that antisemitic hatred of

Jews has developed across America supported by well-funded networks of protestors. The highly respected former Attorney General of Virginia, Jason Miyares, has been courageous to expose the threats to free speech in an article of *Follow the Money* published today by the *Jewish Insider*, researched by Marc Rod. I include in the RECORD the article:

Jason Miyares alleges 'very organized' and well-funded network propping up antisemitic activity.

Former Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares on Tuesday laid out what he said was a coordinated network funneling U.S. funds to terrorist groups abroad and bringing foreign money into the U.S. to incite anti-Israel protests.

The former attorney general, who in his previous role sought to expose the financial records of American Muslims for Palestine, seemingly referring to ongoing litigation, that 'allegedly, a good number of charitable organizations and networks of them' funnel money both from the United States to terrorist proxies in the Middle East, as well as from overseas into campus protests.

'They're very organized, they're funded,' Miyares, a Republican, said at a George Washington University Program on Extremism conference on antisemitism. 'You could see it as a huge network, a huge network that is nationwide, of different entities funneling money in, in my opinion, to form a dissent on these college campuses and give people then the license and the permission to push rampant antisemitism.'

He said that there was clear proof that the protests were orchestrated, pointing to an incident at Virginia Commonwealth University where a large protest 'seemingly sprung out overnight,' where demonstrators arrived with premade barriers and signs, as well as full tactical gear and makeshift bear spray grenades, and coached other demonstrators on how to attack police.

Miyares said that he became particularly passionate about pursuing antisemitism as attorney general during a trip to Israel shortly after the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks, when he visited the site of some of Hamas' massacres. On the way home from the trip, he saw news coverage of protests on U.S. campuses of protesters waving Hamas flags and shouting Hamas slogans. 'It really struck me in my core. How in the world did we get this inverted?' Miyares said.

He highlighted one story of meeting a Jewish student who had spoken out against a Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions resolution at his university, and returned to a sign on his dorm room door that read, 'if you open your mouth again, we will finish what the Final Solution started.'

The student's roommate, a German Jewish exchange student, ultimately decided to leave the school and the country entirely. Miyares alleged that the school knew who left the sign but didn't act until Miyares had a 'very, very frank, direct conversation' with the college president.

'Students feel intimidated and at times scared to speak out, and so it requires college administrators to give them that space and give them that ability, that they actually can share what they're experiencing,' Miyares said.

HONORING LARRY STANTON WIESE

HON. BEN CLINE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Larry Stanton Wiese. Larry graduated in 1990