

Like so many of our veterans, his legacy extends beyond the uniform. His commitment to protecting our freedoms reminds us that the liberties we enjoy today were secured by Americans willing to put country before self.

On behalf of Florida's Space Coast and a grateful Nation, we thank Luis Francisco Ramos Ramirez for his service, his sacrifice, and his example. It is an honor to recognize him here today.

RECOGNIZING MADELINE BROBST
RECEIVING A PERFECT SCORE
ON THE ACT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to formally recognize an exceptional young student, Madeline Brobst, a senior at Franklin Christian Academy who has received a perfect composite score of 36 on the ACT exam. Through disciplined study, steady composure during examinations, and unwavering commitment of time and talent, Ms. Brobst has achieved academic success and joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our country.

In addition to her intellectual capability, Ms. Brobst serves as a mentor to eighth grade students at Franklin Christian Academy; she is a member of the Student Leadership Team, National Honor Society, and the worship team during school chapel services. During her time at Franklin Christian Academy, Ms. Brobst has participated in numerous theatrical and musical productions.

It is with great distinction and pride that I honor Madeline for achieving a perfect ACT score, a remarkable feat accomplished by only a very small percentage of students nationwide. This achievement places her among the most academically accomplished students in our country and reflects a level of brilliance that is truly commendable.

Earning a perfect score on the ACT is a testament to remarkable intellectual ability, diligent preparation, and an unparalleled commitment to academic excellence. It demonstrates not only mastery across English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science, but also the persistence, focus, and determination required to perform at the highest level under rigorous testing conditions.

Madeline's dedication to learning and pursuing the highest standards of performance speaks to both her exceptional aptitude and her strong character. Achievements of this caliber do not occur by chance; they are the result of sustained hard work, personal sacrifice, and a devoted commitment to excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Madeline Brobst on this milestone of academic distinction. We commend her for this outstanding accomplishment and look forward with confidence to the many successes that will undoubtedly follow in her academic and professional journey.

RECOGNIZING UNITED STATES
NAVY PETTY OFFICER SECOND
CLASS KATRINA GRAMER

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer Second Class Katrina Gramer for her honorable service to the United States Navy and her unwavering dedication to supporting our veteran community. Her service in uniform and her continued dedication to fellow veterans represents the very best of our service members and the values they uphold. It is my privilege to recognize her as our February 2026 Veteran of the Month.

A native of Port Huron, Michigan, Petty Officer Gramer enlisted in the United States Navy in 1999. She completed basic training at Great Lakes, Illinois, and went on to attend Anti-Submarine Warfare Training School in San Diego, California, where she trained as a Sonar Technician.

Her first duty station was in Yokosuka, Japan. While her ship was operating in the Middle East, the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, occurred. In the days that followed, her ship launched some of the first Tomahawk cruise missiles into Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, answering our Nation's call during a defining moment in American history. She later served in California, continuing her dedicated service.

Throughout her time in uniform, Petty Officer Gramer earned numerous military honors, including the Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. These awards recognize her hard work and the strong performance of the units she served with.

Following her honorable discharge in 2005, Mrs. Gramer continued to pursue excellence. She earned two degrees: one in Early Childhood Development and another in Business Administration. She successfully operated a home childcare business while raising her three children. Once her children reached school age, she discovered a new calling: serving those who have served.

Mrs. Gramer has devoted herself to supporting veterans and their families. She has held leadership positions within her local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, maintains membership in her local American Legion Post, and has served as both Co-Director and Vice President of a local veterans' resource center. She is an active member of her local honor guard, where she performs live taps at services and provides honors at football games, ceremonies, and parades, ensuring that the sacrifices of our service members are remembered with dignity and respect.

Today, she serves as a Veteran Service Officer for the Vietnam Veterans of America Michigan State Council. In this role, she assists veterans, their families, surviving spouses, and caregivers in navigating the VA benefits system. She takes great pride in ensuring that those who served our Nation receive the benefits and recognition they have earned.

Mrs. Gramer currently resides in Holly, Michigan with her husband, their three children, and their beloved pets, including her

trained service dog, Tinkerbell. She is a proud Navy mother, as her oldest child currently serves on active duty, carrying forward the family's strong tradition of military service. Together, their family enjoys camping, kayaking, bonfires, and sharing meals with one another.

Mr. Speaker, Petty Officer Second Class Katrina Gramer's commitment to service extends far beyond her time in uniform. Through her leadership, advocacy, and tireless work on behalf of veterans and their families, she continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who have served our nation. It is my great privilege to recognize her dedication and to honor her as our February 2026 Veteran of the Month.

HONORING MAYOR CHARLES
HARVEY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Charles Harvey for his dedication to his community, Bolivar County and surrounding areas.

Charles Harvey served as Mayor of Duncan, Mississippi, for over 30 years, making him one of the longest-serving municipal leaders in the region. His decades of service reflect sustained trust from the community and a deep commitment to the town's well-being.

Under Mayor Harvey's leadership, the Town of Duncan was recognized as a "Healthy Hometown" through a statewide program, showcasing the town's efforts to improve health and wellness for residents. The initiative included developing a walking trail along a former railroad bed, promoting outdoor activity and healthy living among all ages. This work was supported by grants and community engagement and involved events like walking clubs and "Walk to School Day," making health a priority in local policy.

Duncan received a Healthy Hometown award, reflecting ongoing efforts to create spaces and programs that encourage physical activity and general wellness. Though detailed public records of specific housing projects in Duncan are limited due to the town's small size, Mayor Harvey has consistently voiced concerns about housing and worked to address community needs. His long tenure suggests ongoing engagement with issues like property conditions, residential opportunities, and community stability common priorities in small rural towns where housing quality and availability directly affect residents retention and quality of life.

Mayor Harvey's longstanding service has also been characterized by his role as a community advocate and organizer—bringing residents together for initiatives that improve quality of life and supporting and partnerships for health and housing-related projects. His involvement in statewide wellness programs brought recognition and resources to Duncan that might otherwise not have been accessible.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mayor Charles Harvey for his unwavering dedication to the people of his community, this great state, and our Nation.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY
MONTH

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Black History is New Mexico History. From Estevanico, an enslaved man who was the first, that we know of, non-Indigenous person to step foot in New Mexico after an adventure through the Americas that should be legend, to the Buffalo Soldiers who stood watch across this territory, and to the families who built Blackdom out of dust and determination.

While the Black community in New Mexico may be small in number, it has never been small in impact. Our state's story cannot be told without them.

Before statehood, before the railroads, and before the border crossed us, Black history here has been a story of people who kept showing up. They showed up when there were only 22 Black residents counted in the territory. They showed up when hotels were segregated and yearbooks placed Black students in the back pages. They showed up when banks would not lend and schools would not welcome them. Now, we are all showing up together.

There are forces right now that want to erase this history, to whitewash it and ban it from schools, and to call conversations about race "divisive." They have even posted racist videos attacking the Black excellence of a former President and First Lady. They attack Black culture, immigrant culture, and Native culture—as if the richness of our heritage is something to be feared.

It may feel like they are winning. But in New Mexico, we know our cultures are not threats. They are treasures. We will not stand by while anyone tries to diminish them. As John Lewis reminded us: "The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have in a democratic society." He also reminded us that "democracy is not a state. It is an act."

We believe democracy works best when everyone participates. We come from builders. They built culture. Culture is power. Culture is how people survive what was meant to break them. Black culture will survive this.

We will organize. When they try to intimidate voters, we will mobilize. When they try to erase history, we will teach it louder. When they try to tear down our cultures, we will build them up.

CONGRATULATING THE LATINO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF
PUEBLO DINNER DANCE AWARDEES

HON. JEFF HURD

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. HURD of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 47th Annual Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo Dinner Dance Awardees for 2025. Over the past 47 years, the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Pueblo has grown into a well-

pected and accomplished organization that continues to support and strengthen small businesses in the Pueblo community.

I congratulate this year's awardees: Caitlin Alcon, for the Victor Navarro Outstanding Board Member of the Year; Dr. Chato Hazelbaker for the Gil Sanchez Outstanding Professional of the Year; Pueblo City-County Library District, for the Lorraine K. Salas Outstanding Community Partner of the Year; Vectra Bank Colorado, Outstanding Corporate Member of the Year; Rebecca Gomez, Gil Padilla Outstanding Ambassador of the Year; El Pomar Foundation, Outstanding Non-Profit Member of the Year; and Freddie Martinez Agency, for the Joseph P. Roybal Outstanding Small Business of the Year.

I congratulate all the awardees and to the Chamber for their tireless efforts in the Pueblo community. It is Coloradans like these awardees who make Southern Colorado so special and inspire those around them. Please join me in celebrating them once more.

HONORING CAPTAIN DEBBY
MOONE, BREVARD COUNTY'S NO-
VEMBER VETERAN OF THE
MONTH

HON. MIKE HARIDOPOLOS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary Floridian and patriot, Captain Debby Moone, who was named Brevard County's November Veteran of the Month.

Captain Moone dedicated 32 years of her life to serving our Nation in uniform, answering the call in both the United States Air Force and the United States Army. After serving 22 years in the Air Force and rising to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, she continued her service by becoming a commissioned Army officer, ultimately retiring as a Captain in the Medical Service Corps.

Throughout her distinguished career, Captain Moone deployed in Operation Desert Storm, served overseas in Korea, and led soldiers as a medical company commander, ensuring that those who served had the care they needed when it mattered most.

Her service has been recognized with numerous honors, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, Captain Moone represents the very best of the Space Coast—selfless, resilient, and devoted to something greater than herself. Our Nation is stronger because of her service, and Brevard County is proud to call her one of its own.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF NANCY NORDHOFF

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Nancy Nordhoff.

Nancy passed away peacefully on January 7 at the age of 93 at her home on Whidbey Island, surrounded by her family. She fiercely and steadfastly championed women's rights, literary prowess and environmental causes for over five decades.

Nancy was a beloved Pacific Northwest philanthropist, a giant among giants who used her resources and her time to make change that supported and lifted up the voices and the needs of those who are too often left behind. Throughout her lifetime, she generously founded and supported groundbreaking nonprofits and her local community. Everywhere she turned, she made people's lives better—not only in Washington State but across the United States and the broader global community. A proud graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Nancy's feminism, charitable giving and activism were the foundation of her life's work—seeing a need, coming up with a solution and taking action to make people's lives better.

In 1988, Nancy founded Hedgebrook, a world-renowned nonprofit on Whidbey Island that supports female-identified writers with residencies and radical hospitality, on land that allowed for rest, rejuvenation, creativity and a reconnection to nature. Hedgebrook has established hundreds of new and known writers who came to bravely define their own lives, communities, and creative and political paths. But it wasn't just the place: it was Nancy herself, who never stepped away from the work. She was there, meeting writers, listening to their ideas, educating herself and often becoming the wind in their sails. Over 38 years, Hedgebrook has supported a growing and influential alumnae community of women authoring change—now over 2,000 writers strong—that has reached millions of people of all ages. Hedgebrook's ripple effect is truly remarkable, and I was fortunate to meet Nancy through my own residency and then later to serve on the Board as Hedgebrook grew, and then on the Creative Advisory Board with luminaries like Gloria Steinem.

Nancy's philanthropy and environmental advocacy also profoundly shaped her local community's physical and civic landscape. She founded Goosefoot Community Fund to support essential needs, help local businesses grow, preserve historic places and rural landscapes, and connect neighbors. She was instrumental in supporting Whidbey Camano Land Trust acquisitions, restoring salmon habitats and protecting wetlands. Many organizations benefited from Nancy's hands-on support and largess. She literally got her hands dirty every day and was always the last to fold up tables at the end of countless social justice and book events she made happen. Her humility, grace and compassion were just some of the many qualities that set her apart and made her so beloved.

Nancy was also known to support families and individuals in a time of need. She mentored many women in nonprofit leadership and philanthropy while championing their creative projects and careers. I was one of those very fortunate ones to have called Nancy a true friend, such a remarkable and constant presence in my life as mentor and supporter in every endeavor I undertook—from my early work on immigrant rights to my transition into politics. Nancy never wanted acknowledgement, even though she received numerous honors and awards for her life's work, including being designated a Women's History