

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

Month Honoree by the National Women's History Project and a National Philanthropy Day "Outstanding Philanthropist." It is not an exaggeration to say that millions of people who will never know her name have and will continue to benefit from her extraordinary life and legacy.

Nancy is survived by her wife Lynn Hays, her children: Grace Nordhoff, Charles "Chuck" Nordhoff, Carolyn Nordhoff Reid and their spouses; and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We extend our gratitude to them for sharing her with the world. Nancy's legacy of generosity and kindness will live on for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING GENE FISHER AND HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COUNTY OF VENTURA

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Gene Fisher, whose exceptional leadership and tireless advocacy as Co-Chair and Executive Director of the Regional Defense Partnership have strengthened Ventura County's defense community, bolstered our regional economy, and ensured that our military installations remain resilient and mission-ready. Under Gene's leadership, the Regional Defense Partnership has served as Ventura County's community-based organization supporting our military installations and commands as essential assets to our national security and key contributors to our local economy.

During periods of uncertainty and significant challenges, including threats of base realignment, downsizing, and evolving defense priorities, Gene was a steady and trusted leader who helped ensure that Naval Base Ventura County continued to thrive as the county's largest employer, generating an estimated \$4.6 billion annually and supporting more than 24,000 military, civilian, and contractor jobs.

Throughout his tenure, Gene represented the interests of Naval Base Ventura County with distinction, communicating its needs and priorities to local government leaders, educational institutions, and business partners, while building enduring partnerships among military commands, public agencies, and the private sector. His deep commitment to both the base and our community is evident in his work to ensure that Ventura County's infrastructure, workforce, and expertise continue to meet the evolving demands of 21st century national defense.

Among his many accomplishments, Gene led the Regional Defense Partnership's efforts to expand Naval Base Ventura County from approximately 70 to 110 commands, helped secure funding and legislative support to enhance critical capabilities such as the Center for Maritime Directed Energy Testing, and worked to ensure that Ventura County remains at the forefront of advanced defense innovation and collaboration.

Of particular importance to me is Gene's genuine passion for fostering cooperation and partnership. In addition to his many other community-focused initiatives, he convened monthly joint military—community meetings,

creating an essential forum for dialogue, coordination, and mutual support among base leadership, local stakeholders, and elected officials.

As he steps down from this role, I am proud to join our community in recognizing Gene's 27 years of dedicated public service and his extraordinary contributions to preserving the defense, economic, and technological vitality of the County of Ventura.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I recognize Gene Fisher for his steadfast leadership and for the lasting impact he has had on our community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT AND DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act District of Columbia Equality Act. This bill would make the District of Columbia eligible for federal funding under the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act in the same manner as states. D.C. residents pay the same federal taxes as residents of the states and, therefore, D.C. should be treated as a state under federal programs. D.C. has roughly 7,800 acres of parkland, covering nearly a quarter of the city.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act provides funding to states for five distinct purposes: program administration, wildlife restoration, basic hunter education and safety, enhanced hunter education and safety grants and multistate conservation grants. In general, D.C. is not eligible for funding under this Act.

The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act provides funding for sport fish restoration, aquatic education, wetlands restoration and boat-related activities. Under this Act, each state receives a minimum of one percent of the total amount apportioned, while D.C. is capped at one-third of one percent.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

COMMEMORATING THE 'GETTYSBURG OF KOREA'

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 75 years, as of this month, since the Battle of Chipyong-ni, often called the "Gettysburg of the Korean War."

In February 1951, the Chinese People's Liberation Army and North Korean People's Army launched a major offensive against American and South Korean lines near Chipyong-ni.

American forces, along with the support of French allies, held their ground against relent-

less attacks until February 15th when troops from the American 1st Cavalry Division broke through enemy lines, reversing a monthslong tide of defeats. This victory marked a major turning point in the war effectively breaking the last major Chinese offensive and restoring momentum to the United Nations forces.

I include in the RECORD the following summary of this battle from the February 12, 2026, edition of The Washington Times:

TIDE-TURNING 'GETTYSBURG OF KOREA'
BATTLE COMMEMORATED 75 YEARS LATER

CHIPYONG-NI, SOUTH KOREA—Chipyong-ni is today a modest, rural village, but 75 years ago it briefly commanded the attention of the free world. For millennial Koreans, the village—now spelled 'Jipyeong-ri'—is famed for the excellence of its makgeolli, a white rice brew.

For military historians, Chipyong-ni is famed for the three-day 'Gettysburg of the Korean War' that began Feb. 13, 1951.

Forty miles southeast of Seoul, U.S. forces, fighting alongside French allies, reversed a monthslong tide of defeats, proving Chinese forces could be beaten.

The battle's 75th anniversary was commemorated Wednesday by local VIPs and troop contingents from France, South Korea and the U.S.

But as the war generation fades, this year's commemorations were the first in living memory without veterans.

And while trans-Atlantic tensions strain NATO's sinews, inter-Allied frictions became obvious during the commemorations.

LOOKING BACK

In 1951, the battle was fought under snow. In 2026, the rice fields were frozen and the weather chill, but snow had stayed off the gray-brown landscape.

Gunfire no longer clatters; artillery no longer thunders. Today's standout sound is the hiss of KTX bullet trains passing along through the little station.

Commemorations took place at a raised memorial overlooking Chipyong-ri's museum—complete with a tank outside. The makgeolli brewery that was the American command post still stands, beautifully restored.

Uniforms included Korean Army dark greens, U.S. Army browns and tans and the jaunty scarlet and blue of the most distinctive contingent—cadets from the French military academy, St. Cyr.

'This battle was a linchpin,' Brig. Gen. Scott Woodward, deputy commander of the 2nd Infantry Division, or '2ID,' the key U.S. ground force in Korea today. 'It turned the tide of the war.'

In 1951, 2ID's 23rd Infantry Regiment, fighting under the U.N. Command banner with the French U.N. Battalion attached, defended Chipyong-ri.

From the memorial, the most striking thing about the battlefield is its size. Four battalions of infantry, plus artillery and over 100 vehicles were compressed by the surrounding Chinese forces into a perimeter a mile deep and a mile-and-a-half wide.

'It's humbling to see the challenges the soldiers faced,' said U.S. Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Milner. 'The terrain forced them to get in close.'

'It must have been intimidating to fight here: You could see the enemy's eyes,' said 2nd Lt. Nicolas, a St. Cyr cadet who, citing academy policy, declined to offer his surname. 'The enemy had the high ground, and much more manpower.'

HOLDING THE 'HUMAN WAVE'

U.S. Col. Paul Freeman, commanding the 23rd, deployed his units shoulder-to-shoulder to prevent infiltration in an all-around defense. Inside the perimeter, his engineers