

HONORING DR. NATALIA GIRALDO-SANTIAGO, 2025 NATIONAL TRIO ACHIEVER

**HON. PABLO JOSÉ HERNÁNDEZ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2026*

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Natalia Giraldo-Santiago, an extraordinary Puerto Rican scholar and clinician whose journey exemplifies the transformative power of the federal TRIO programs.

Dr. Giraldo-Santiago is a proud alumna of the TRIO Upward Bound program at the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras. With the support and mentorship she received through TRIO, she overcame early academic and personal challenges to pursue a career defined by excellence in research, clinical care, and teaching. Today, she serves as an instructor at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, as well as a research fellow at the Massachusetts Center for Alzheimer and Dementia Behavioral Research in Minority Aging.

Her groundbreaking work in health equity, mental health, and chronic pain management for underserved Latino and Spanish-speaking populations has earned support from the National Institutes of Health and recognition from her peers, including the 2024 Diversity Award from the Society of Behavioral Medicine.

On September 9, 2025, the Council for Opportunity in Education honored Dr. Giraldo-Santiago at their Educational Opportunity Dinner as one of the 2025 National TRIO Achievers. The 2025 National TRIO Achievers remind us why TRIO programs are not just necessary but transformational. These exemplary leaders embody resilience, purpose, and commitment to giving back. They represent what is possible when we give students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds a real opportunity to thrive.

As the Congressional Representative of Puerto Rico and a member of the TRIO Caucus, I am proud to celebrate Dr. Giraldo-Santiago's accomplishments and reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that these life-changing programs remain a strong federal priority.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSMAN LEE H. HAMILTON

**HON. ANDRÉ CARSON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2026*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Lee H. Hamilton, a devoted public servant, a champion of bipartisanship, and a true Hoosier icon.

For 34 years, Congressman Hamilton represented Indiana in the United States House of Representatives with integrity, civility, and unwavering dedication to his constituents. Throughout his tenure, he earned national respect for his thoughtful leadership on foreign affairs, intelligence, and national security matters, serving as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and playing a pivotal role in the Iran-Contra investigation. Later, as

Vice Chairman of the 9/11 Commission, he helped guide our Nation through one of the most consequential inquiries in modern American history.

Congressman Hamilton believed deeply in representative democracy and the responsibility of elected officials to work across party lines. He forged lasting bipartisan partnerships, including with Senator Richard Lugar, demonstrating that principled collaboration strengthens Indiana and our Nation. His commitment to civil discourse and institutional integrity set a standard for all public servants.

After retiring from Congress, Congressman Hamilton continued to serve our community through scholarship and civic education at Indiana University. Through the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies and the Center on Congress, he helped prepare future generations to understand and engage in public life with seriousness and respect.

A son of Evansville, a proud graduate of DePauw University and Indiana University, and a member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, Lee Hamilton never lost sight of his Hoosier roots. His life embodied service to his district, to Indiana, and to America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Congressman Lee Hamilton's extraordinary legacy. May we follow his example of integrity, bipartisanship, and devotion to democratic ideals. May his children, grandchildren, and all who mourn his passing be comforted by the knowledge that we honor his legacy here in Congress, and treasure the incredible leadership he shared with us.

RECOGNIZING TRUMP PEACE BETWEEN ALGERIA AND MOROCCO

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2026*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month, Massad Boulous, the Senior Advisor to President Donald Trump, sponsored peace talks in Spain encouraging peace between Morocco and Algeria. A breakthrough could help push war criminal Putin out of North Africa.

Algeria and Putin in the past have had a strategic partnership, as Russia is the main arms supplier to Algeria.

Peace between Morocco and Algeria can move Algeria into a better relationship with America which can bring benefits for all North Africa including Tunisia, where Algeria is the key sponsor for tyrant President Saied. The people of Tunisia are recognized as revolutionaries for freedom.

The future of Algeria lies in moving past support for the Polisario and backing a realistic autonomy solution for the Sahrawi people, rather than prolonging a conflict that destabilizes the region. Creating a country run by a Marxist cult in the middle of the Sahara Desert is not in the best interest of innocent Sahrawis, as Marxism always fails.

Stable, peaceful, and prosperous North Africa can be achieved with the visionary encouragement of President Donald Trump facilitated by courageous Massad Boulous.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL CANCER PREVENTION MONTH

**HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2026*

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as National Cancer Prevention Month and to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to reducing the burden of cancer in communities across our Nation.

Cancer is a devastating disease that has touched far too many families in my district and across the country. Nearly every one of us knows a parent, child, sibling, or friend whose life has been altered by a diagnosis. The grief that follows the loss of a loved one to cancer is profound, and it strengthens our resolve to do everything in our power to prevent this disease wherever possible.

This month reminds us that while cancer has affected so many lives, there are meaningful steps we can take to reduce its impact. Research shows that a significant share of cancer cases may be preventable through practical, evidence-based measures. Simple but important actions, such as staying physically active, maintaining a healthy diet, protecting our skin from excessive sun exposure, and keeping up with recommended screenings, can make a real difference in reducing risk.

At the same time, prevention must extend beyond individual choices. Too many families face obstacles to early detection and timely care. Access to screenings such as mammograms and colonoscopies can mean the difference between early treatment and a far more difficult journey. We must also confront the persistent disparities in cancer outcomes, as rural communities and communities of color too often face greater barriers to prevention, screening, and care.

National Cancer Prevention Month serves as a solemn reminder of both the progress we have made and the work that remains. By strengthening prevention efforts, expanding access to lifesaving screenings, and working to close gaps in care, we can honor those we have lost and help spare other families from the hardship of a cancer diagnosis.

CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF NANCY PATTERSON

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2026*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nancy Patterson, a U.S. Army veteran and accomplished leader in public education, workforce development, and cross-sector collaboration. With more than two decades of experience, Ms. Patterson has focused on advancing College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) for students across Texas and the Nation.

She has held executive leadership roles in a public school system that serves over 40,000 students, leading systemwide improvements that enhanced accountability outcomes and student readiness. She is recognized for supervising and coaching school leaders,

strengthening leadership pipelines, and aligning people, processes, and performance during times of organizational transition.

Ms. Patterson's work bridges education, workforce, military, and higher education systems to align pathways with labor market needs, expand postsecondary opportunities, and improve long-term economic mobility for students and communities. She has served in advisory and leadership roles for the Texas Education Agency, testified before the Texas

House Committee on Public Education, and contributed to boards supporting military-connected students and workforce development. She also served on the Texas State Advisory Council for Educational Opportunities for Military-Connected Children.

Nationally, Ms. Patterson participated in the 2023 National Security Seminar at the United States Army War College and was appointed advisor to the Women's Leadership Program at Texas A&M University—Texarkana in 2024.

In 2025, she was named one of the Top 10 School Executive Directors by Education Insider. She holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, completed post-master's coursework in educational administration, and holds Texas principal certification.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Nancy Patterson for her dedicated service to strengthening education, workforce readiness, and opportunities for military-connected students and families.