

bill, the CLARITY Act, to strengthen our national security and counter China. These efforts built the foundation that culminated in his promotion to National Security Advisor, where he became one of the most trusted voices in our office on some of the most consequential issues before Congress.

Andrew played a central role in advancing our national security priorities, helping us secure more provisions in the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act than any other Member of Congress. He helped lead on several marquee pieces of legislation, including the AI Plan Act and the Maximum Pressure Act to expand Iran sanctions, both topics that remain top of mind today. His diligent work strengthened our national security, supported our servicemembers and their families, and ensured that Iowa's voice was clearly represented in shaping America's defense policy.

Yet Andrew's greatest contributions extend beyond legislative achievements. He approached every responsibility with steadiness, humility, and a deep sense of duty to the people of Iowa's 3rd District. Whether navigating complex policy challenges or welcoming visiting Iowans to the Capitol, Andrew exemplified professionalism and kindness. My own family experienced this firsthand, as he was often the first to go on a scavenger hunt or take my daughters for ice cream—small gestures that reflected his character and genuine commitment to service.

Through long hours, demanding negotiations, and pivotal legislative moments, Andrew remained focused on delivering results for Iowans and upholding the trust placed in our office.

Andrew Bohn strengthened our team and advanced our mission to serve Iowa's 3rd Congressional District with integrity and purpose. We wish Andrew success in his next endeavors and have no doubt he will continue to lead and serve with excellence in the next chapter of his career. The distinctive accomplishments of his service greatly reflect himself, the people of Iowa, and the United States.

RECOGNIZING MS. MARTHA  
MANER

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of a remarkable community leader in my district, Ms. Martha Maner. As an original member of the YMCA Togetherhood Program, Martha has been a driving force behind its spirit of unity, service, and action. From the very beginning, her positive and energetic attitude has set the tone for collaboration and meaningful community impact. Martha brings enthusiasm to every meeting, encourages participation from every voice, and approaches each initiative with a "let's make it happen" mindset. Whether organizing outreach efforts, supporting families in need, or mobilizing volunteers, her optimism inspires others to step forward and serve. Through her leadership and vibrant energy, she has helped shape Togetherhood into not just a program, but a movement of compassion and community pride.

For more than three decades, Martha has exemplified servant leadership and transformative community impact. A proud and active member of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World (IBPOEW) for over 30 years, she has served with integrity and grace as Exalted Ruler and Daughter Ruler of Frederick Kelley Elks Lodge No. 1270 and Kelley's Temple No. 1004. Her leadership extends statewide and nationally as President of the Florida Women Deputies of Elks, a member of Emma V. Kelley Council No. 61, a member of the National Presidents Council of Elks, and State President of the Women's Auxiliary of the IBPOEW. Her impact goes far beyond titles. Martha helped establish the Frederick Kelley Lodge's weekend breakfast program, coordinated nightly meals during the COVID-19 lockdown, and continues to host an annual community Thanksgiving dinner. She supports young mothers, assists families during bereavement, helps coordinate celebrations, and contributes to civic initiatives, including the South Brooksville Tax Redevelopment Advisory Committee, the Community Redevelopment Agency, and the YMCA Togetherhood Program.

In recognition of her extraordinary service, Martha was honored as the 2025 Brooksvillian of the Year and received the 2025 Melissa Rogers Humanitarian Award—distinctions that reflect the depth of her influence and her dedication to improving the lives of others. Her legacy is one of compassion, commitment, and courageous service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Martha Maner for her decades of leadership and transformative contributions to her community. For her tireless dedication to families, neighborhoods, and civic life, I am proud to honor Martha Maner as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING LEOLA HARRIS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Leola Harris.

Leola Harris, a native of Natchez, Mississippi, is a graduate of Sadie V. Thompson High School and attended Natchez Junior College. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Special Education, along with 30 additional graduate hours, from Alcorn State University.

Mrs. Harris dedicated fifty-one years to serving as an Exceptional Education teacher. Throughout her distinguished career, she has been a steadfast advocate for youth and an active supporter of organizations committed to strengthening the community. She is the founder of the MLK, Jr. Youth Program, an initiative designed to provide young people with opportunities to showcase their talents, and the Isaiah Harlis Memorial Scholarship Program, which assists students in pursuing higher education. As a respected community spokesperson, she remains committed to inspiring hope and empowering the next generation. She affirms, "Our children are the mothers and fathers of our tomorrows, and their future is in our hands."

Her longstanding commitment to service began during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s in Mississippi, where she participated in voter registration drives, boycotts, marches, and other efforts promoting equality and progress. She takes pride in the role those efforts played in expanding employment opportunities in Natchez.

Guided by the words of Cornel West—"You can't lead the people if you don't love the people," and "You can't save the people if you don't serve the people"—

Mrs. Harris continues to exemplify principled leadership and dedicated service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Leola Harris for her actions and achievements in the Natchez, Mississippi community.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
LORING A. GRAY, JR.

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, Jr.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with profound sorrow to pay tribute to The Honorable Loring A. Gray, Jr., a devoted public servant, a beloved judge, a Navy veteran, and a man whose life was defined by service, compassion, and quiet dignity. A service to celebrate his remarkable life was held on February 28, 2026, at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Albany, Georgia.

Born at Portsmouth Naval Hospital on June 8, 1947, Loring Gray answered his country's call as a young man, serving aboard the USS Kitty Hawk in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam War. He returned home and pursued law, graduating from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1976. From the moment he took the oath of office as an assistant district attorney in Dougherty County, to his decades as a distinguished Superior Court judge—including many years as Chief Judge—Judge Gray exemplified the very best of our justice system: fairness, firmness, and an abiding respect for the human dignity of every person who stood before him.

Judge Gray's influence reached far beyond the courtroom. He guided the remodeling of the Dougherty County Courthouse with a steward's care for institutions that bind communities together. He mentored young lawyers, supported the Mock Trial program, and served the broader judiciary as a Senior Judge and Mediator after retirement. Those who knew him recall his formidable presence on the bench balanced by an unexpected and gentle wit—a man who could be exacting in law and tender in life. His devotion to Adoption Days, where he helped give new families legal and spiritual beginnings, revealed a judge whose justice was always married to mercy.

He was a faithful member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Albany—teaching Sunday School, serving as an usher, and serving on the vestry—living the church's call to love and to serve. His life was guided by the Latin motto he cherished, not for yourselves—"Sic vos non vobis." That principle shaped everything he did: his law practice, his public service, his friendships, and the hospitality he shared—from orchestrating UGA tailgate gatherings to welcoming friends at his table.

Judge Gray was a devoted son, husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend. He was preceded in death by his parents, Loring A. and Virginia Gray, and by his wife, Virginia Looney Gray. He is survived by his son Russell Gray and daughter Liz Gray Barfield, grandchildren Ansley, Will, and Lilia, his siblings and extended family, and a community that benefited from his steady wisdom.

Today, we give thanks for a life well lived—a life that taught us that the law is more than statutes and precedent; it is the tender administration of justice with compassion. We mourn his passing, but we also celebrate the countless lives he touched: children placed in loving homes, young lawyers encouraged to do right, courthouse staff steadied by his example, and neighbors across Dougherty County who knew the safety and grace of his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife, Vivian, and the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the memory of Judge Loring A. Gray, Jr.—a man of intellect, integrity, and heart. May his family find comfort in the knowledge that his legacy of service will endure and may we all take inspiration from his life to serve our communities with the same humility and devotion. God bless his memory.

HONORING KIDNEYS FOR COMMUNITIES THIS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, March is National Kidney Month—a fitting time to pay tribute to an organization that has not only changed lives but saved them by expanding access to kidney transplants from living donors: Kidneys for Communities. With a special focus on aiding first responders, children, and people in agricultural communities, Kidneys for Communities developed the first-ever national community-directed donation program. It helps educate and connect donors and recipients by leveraging its massive network of communities, employers, municipalities, and first responder organizations. At a time when we face a national kidney shortage, with some 100,000 Americans needing a kidney at any given moment but only an average of 6,500 living kidney donations made each year, this type of proactive outreach has never been more important.

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am particularly grateful for the organization's Kidneys for First Responders initiative. I thank the entire team at Kidneys for Communities for their work not only this month but year-round. They have done a terrific job supporting this effort to ensure our firefighters and other first responders receive the support they need.

Kidney disease affects tens of millions of Americans in every neighborhood, town, city, district, and state in the Nation. It demands the attention of every Member of this Congress.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Kidneys for Communities for making America a healthier, stronger Nation.

RECOGNIZING MS. HALLEEN

**HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of an exceptional community leader in my district, Ms. Halleen. For many years, Ms. Halleen has dedicated her time, energy, and talent to strengthening the lives of individuals and families throughout our community. Her unwavering commitment to service, advocacy, and mentorship reflects the very spirit of the Heroes Among Us Congressional Award.

Ms. Halleen has devoted herself to creating opportunities for growth, support, and empowerment. Through her volunteer work and leadership in local organizations, she has ensured that community members—from children to seniors—have access to programs, resources, and guidance that improve their well-being. She consistently demonstrates the values of compassion, integrity, and collaboration, bringing together volunteers, stakeholders, and local leaders to address challenges and create meaningful impact. Her work is characterized by hands-on involvement and a personal touch. Ms. Halleen actively participates in program planning, community outreach, and volunteer coordination, always leading by example. Her dedication has strengthened initiatives that provide critical support, educational opportunities, and enrichment programs for those who need it most. Colleagues and community members describe her as a tireless advocate, a connector of people, and a source of encouragement and inspiration. Ms. Halleen's efforts have not only addressed immediate needs but have also created sustainable solutions that benefit the community for years to come. Through her vision, leadership, and commitment to others, she has helped countless individuals find hope, resources, and a stronger sense of belonging. Her service ensures that our community continues to thrive and that every person has an opportunity to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Halleen for her extraordinary contributions to our community. For her selfless dedication, impactful leadership, and unwavering commitment to helping others, I am proud to honor Halleen as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING VYBZ KARTEL IN CELEBRATION OF REGGAE MONTH

**HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vybz Kartel in Celebration of Reggae Month. I include in the RECORD the following, proclamation:

Whereas, reggae and dancehall music remain powerful global expressions of Jamaican culture, creativity, and social commentary, celebrated annually during Reggae Month in recognition of the artists who have shaped and transformed the genre; and

Whereas, Vybz Kartel, born Adidja Azim Palmer in Kingston, Jamaica, has been one of the most influential and provocative figures in contemporary dancehall, earning titles such as "Worl' Boss," "Teacha," and "King of Dancehall"; and

Whereas, emerging in the early 1990s and rising to prominence in the early 2000s, Vybz Kartel became known for his prolific songwriting, sharp lyrical delivery, and cultural impact, helping to redefine the sound and direction of modern dancehall music; and

Whereas, his hit singles including "Romp-ing Shop," "Dancehall Hero," and "Summer Time" have become staples of the genre, while his collaborations with international artists have further expanded dancehall's global reach; and

Whereas, recognized for his immense productivity and enduring connection to fans worldwide, Vybz Kartel maintained a significant musical presence throughout his career, continuing to influence new generations of artists in Jamaica and abroad; and

Whereas, his cultural impact has extended beyond Jamaica's shores, inspiring numerous international performers and contributing to the worldwide evolution of dancehall-infused popular music; and therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, proudly acknowledge Vybz Kartel in celebration of Reggae Month, recognizing his significant contributions to dancehall music, his cultural influence, and his role in shaping the global sound and legacy of Jamaican music.

RECOGNIZING NATHANIEL "REX" PUREFOY, THE "HOLLYWOOD COWBOY"

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor Kansas City's very own "Hollywood Cowboy," Nathaniel "Rex" Purefoy, who has dedicated his life to preserving the legacy and culture of African American cowboys through performances and storytelling. Let us take a moment to recognize this extraordinary individual in Missouri's 5th Congressional District who has captivated the public with his unique horsemanship and roping techniques for over 50 years.

African American cowboys were an essential part of American history in the various territories and into statehood for many states. They worked on ranches and in cattle drives on trails coming through mid-western states such as Missouri and Kansas before the Civil War and through the early 1900s. They also performed in rodeos when not on the trail.

In Kansas City, native Rex Purefoy further contributed to ensuring that generations upon generations did not forget about African American cowboy culture but rather embrace its heritage and celebrate it. Along with his loyal partner, his horse Ringo, Rex brought his famous "Hollywood Cowboy Show," a performance full of rope twirling, music, and Western fashion across the United States. As an avid trick-roper and horseman, Rex traveled across state lines performing in rodeos, shows, parades, and even performed with the Barnum and Bailey Circus and The UniverSoul Circus for many years.

In addition to his own shows and live performances, Rex was a special guest star in