

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

the 1970s “The Flip Wilson Show” and had cameo roles in movies and local Kansas City area television programs. As a testament to his talents, Rex appeared in a critically acclaimed movie with boxing legend Muhammad Ali entitled “The Black Rodeo,” in 1972. Rex’s commitment to create not only an entertaining performance but one that would leave the audience with a lasting memory of African American culture led to him being recognized nationally, becoming an inductee of the National Cowboys of Color Museum and the Hall of Fame.

Beyond his work as a performer, Rex has found other ways to further protect the legacy of African American cowboys. Working as a photographer, Rex has documented other African American cowboys and the Black community, submitting the works to noted Black publications to preserve their history. He has contributed to numerous photographs to African American publications, such as *Jet Magazine*, *Ebony Magazine*, *The Kansas City Call* newspaper, *The Kansas City GLOBE* newspaper, *The Next Page KC* newspaper, *The Carolina Times*, and *The New Jersey Gazette*.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues today to join me in celebrating the contributions that Nathaniel “Rex” Purefoy has provided to the African American community and the United States overall. We thank Rex for sharing a piece of history with our community and feel more at ease knowing that the legacy of African American cowboys has been preserved for years to come.

RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT
JEREMY JOHNSON

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Master Sergeant Jeremy Gerard Johnson, a proven patriotic resident of Aiken, South Carolina, on his retirement from the United States Army after twenty-two years of honorable and faithful service to America.

MSG Johnson had a career of profound courage and leadership as he served as a combat medic, providing critical care under fire in multiple combat deployments in addition to training over three thousand new medics at Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

Furthermore, as a Team Sergeant in a Special Operations Task Force, he bravely supported the fight against ISIS in Syria and played a vital role in the success of global Joint Special Operations Command missions. His innovative spirit was recognized in 2021 when he received the prestigious Captain Teal Award, naming him the best Medical Operations Non-Commissioned Officer in the entire U.S. Army.

Upon his retirement, I extend my deepest thanks to MSG Johnson for his incredible service and unwavering dedication to America. I wish him and his family all the best for a long and fulfilling retirement.

CELEBRATING WORLD HEARING
DAY

HON. TOM BARRETT

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Mr. BARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate World Hearing Day.

Individuals and organizations under the umbrella of the World Hearing Forum and the World Health Organization join together each year to raise awareness about hearing loss, deafness, and how to promote ear and hearing care.

I helped refound the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus because I recognize how important awareness is to all communities, including the elderly, veterans, and even children. This year, the organizations of the World Hearing Forum are promoting hearing care for children. Hearing loss remains chronically undetected in children, with 90 million young people worldwide untreated for hearing loss. This impacts almost every facet of their lives, and critically, their ability to learn in school.

These lifelong impacts can often be avoided or minimized with early detection and treatment. Systematic routine screenings at school can be a key part of these efforts.

That is why the work of physicians, audiologists, and hearing aid specialists matters so deeply. I am proud to support the critical work they do preventing and treating hearing loss while providing high-quality care for their patients.

RECOGNIZING THE PASCO COUNTY
MISDEMEANOR PROBATION UNIT

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 members of the Pasco County Misdemeanor Probation Unit—Tracy Toner, Edward Shadick, Michele Rinaldi, Marissa Parker, Venus Long, Sarah Demedeiro, l'Shorn McClendon, Jaclyn Knapp, and Danai Jerrido—for their extraordinary service and collective impact on our community. Together, they exemplify what it means to make a profound and lasting difference in the lives of others through compassion, integrity, and unwavering dedication. This exceptional team plays a vital role in guiding individuals toward accountability and positive change. Their work extends far beyond fulfilling professional responsibilities. Each day, they provide direction, structure, and access to critical resources that empower individuals to meet their obligations and build more stable futures. They approach every case and every interaction with patience, professionalism, and a genuine belief in the power of personal growth.

What sets this group apart is their collaborative spirit and commitment to strengthening the broader community network. They work closely with community partners, service providers, and stakeholders to ensure that individuals have access to employment opportunities, treatment programs, and supportive services while maintaining stability in their lives. This coordinated and thoughtful approach not

only supports individuals on their journey but reinforces the health and safety of our entire community. Their work is guided by the highest ethical standards. They consistently demonstrate integrity, accountability, and fairness, ensuring that responsibilities are met while treating every individual with dignity and respect. Through careful case management and consistent follow-through, they help reduce recidivism, promote long-term behavioral change, and foster safer neighborhoods. Equally important is their recognition that justice and compassion can work hand in hand. Their efforts contribute to restoring stability for those impacted by wrongdoing and reinforce the principle that accountability, paired with opportunity, can lead to meaningful transformation.

Every day, this team makes a measurable difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our community. Their dedication reflects a shared belief that sometimes one supportive voice, one structured plan, or one person willing to invest the time can alter the trajectory of a life. For their professionalism, compassion, and steadfast commitment to service, I proudly recognize these outstanding individuals as 2026 Heroes Among Us for Florida’s 12th Congressional District. Their work embodies the very spirit of community leadership and demonstrates that positive change is possible when accountability is paired with support and opportunity.

HONORING BUJU BANTON 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 Buju Banton in Celebration of Reggae Month. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, reggae music stands as a global symbol of resistance, love, spirituality, and cultural identity, rooted in the history and resilience of the Jamaican people and celebrated worldwide during Reggae Month; and

Whereas, Buju Banton, born Mark Anthony Myrie in Kingston, Jamaica, has risen from humble beginnings to become one of the most influential and celebrated figures in reggae and dancehall history, shaping the sound, message, and global reach of Caribbean music for more than three decades; and

Whereas, a Grammy Award-winning artist, cultural revolutionary, and musical educator, Buju Banton has produced an extraordinary body of work that includes timeless classics such as “Champion,” “Love Me Brownin,” and “Destiny,” while breaking records and expanding the global consciousness of reggae music beyond generations and borders; and

Whereas, through twelve studio albums and collaborations with legendary artists across genres, Buju Banton has consistently centered his music on themes of love, equality, African identity, spirituality, and liberation, using his voice to challenge injustice and uplift the oppressed; and

Whereas, his continued leadership in the revival of Roots Rock Reggae reinforces reggae’s foundational message—that love is both the standard and the solution—while inspiring new generations to reconnect with the cultural, spiritual, and social power of the music; and