

schools across California. In 2014, he began work with the LA River Revitalization Corporation to develop the Los Angeles River Master Plan, a groundbreaking restoration of the Los Angeles River to create green space for the communities and wildlife that thrive along its path.

In 2015, Frank designed the Children's Institute in Watts, waiving his design fee to support families who had experienced violence and poverty. He also designed the Youth Orchestra Los Angeles (YOLA) center, completed in 2021, which provides free instruments, music training, and academic support to students from disadvantaged neighborhoods. These projects exemplify his belief that architecture could serve not only as art, but as a force for equity and opportunity.

In his passing, Mr. Gehry is survived by his wife, Berta, and three children. I am thankful for the cultural contributions he made in Los Angeles County and his global design landscape that has centered architectural design to serve people. May his memory be a blessing to all who knew him.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL DAVID  
"MOON" HALASI-KUN

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service and extraordinary career of Colonel David L. "Moon" Halasi-Kun, who has honorably served our Nation for more than twenty-five years and most recently as the Wing Commander of the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Massachusetts.

Colonel Halasi-Kun's career is a testament to dedication, leadership, and excellence in service. Commissioned from the United States Air Force Academy in 1998, he went on to graduate from the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program in 2000. Over the course of his career, he has accumulated more than 3,150 flight hours in the F-15 Eagle and other aircraft, and has participated in combat and support missions in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and ATLANTIC RESOLVE.

After a decade of active duty, Colonel Halasi-Kun joined the Massachusetts Air National Guard in 2008, where he has served with distinction for the past fifteen years. Rising through the ranks, he has held numerous leadership positions, including Vice Commander of the 104th Fighter Wing, before assuming command in 2022. In this role, he was responsible for ensuring that more than 1,000 military and civilian personnel were mission-ready to defend our homeland and support expeditionary deployments around the globe. Most notably, Colonel Halasi-Kun has upheld the stellar reputation that has become associated with Barnes, positioning the base to be selected as the preferred location to host a new fleet of F-35A aircraft. This decision solidified Barnes' place in the western Massachusetts community for decades to come.

Colonel Halasi-Kun's service has been recognized with some of the military's highest honors, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, and the

Aerial Achievement Medal. His professional achievements are matched by his academic accomplishments, having earned advanced degrees in Military Operational Art and Science as well as National Resource Strategy.

On September 30, 2025, Colonel Halasi-Kun completed his final flight in the F-15C Eagle, marking both the end of his own flying career and the conclusion of the F-15 mission at Barnes Air National Guard Base. In a fitting tribute, he led a four-ship formation on a two-hour mission over the Atlantic, a "Lunar Flight" named in honor of his call sign, "Moon." Upon his return, he was greeted by family, friends, and fellow airmen who celebrated his remarkable career and enduring legacy.

Mr. Speaker, Colonel Halasi-Kun embodies the very best of our armed forces: courage, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to duty. His leadership has left an indelible mark on the 104th Fighter Wing, and his service has brought great pride to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to our Nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Colonel David "Moon" Halasi-Kun for his decades of service and sacrifice. We extend our deepest gratitude to him, his wife Gretchen, and his son Luke for their steadfast support throughout his career. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of airmen as the 104th transitions to its next chapter with the arrival of the F-35s.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF DEACON ANDREW WASHINGTON

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, brother in Christ, and fellow servant of the community, Deacon Andrew Washington, who departed this life on November 14, 2025. Andrew was a man whose presence, spirit, and service touched countless individuals across Chicago's West Side and far beyond.

Born on February 12, 1942, in Dublin, Mississippi, Andrew was raised in a family guided by faith, wisdom, and resilience. After the untimely passing of his mother, Ruthie Lee Washington, his father, Reverend Bernard Washington, remarried, and through perseverance and hope the family made their way to Chicago in 1955. That journey—rooted in survival and aspiration—shaped the character of a man who would come to embody strength, compassion, and unwavering commitment to others.

In Chicago, Andrew attended Crane High School before becoming a certified electrician through Coyne Electrical School. A multi-talented man, he studied music, beauty, welding, and much more, mastering skills that allowed him to support his family, build small businesses, and establish himself as someone who could fix, create, inspire, and lead.

Andrew accepted Christ at an early age and served faithfully as a deacon at Ruth Memorial M.B.C. and later at New Galilee Missionary Baptist Church. I had the privilege of serving alongside him, and I know firsthand that he

took his calling seriously—offering care, counsel, and comfort to God's people.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Washington was known for many things—his impeccable dress, his sharp wit, his strong opinions, and his ability to make something out of nothing—but what stood out above all was his deep and unwavering commitment to helping others. And I want to highlight two stories that reflect the true measure of this remarkable man.

First, Andrew would not let a week pass without calling me—not for himself, but on behalf of someone else. He would say, "Danny, I've got somebody I need you to help." Never once did he call to ask for anything for himself. In all the years I knew him, he never sought favor for his own benefit. His thoughts were always on the needs of others—young people, families in crisis, neighbors struggling with illness, joblessness, or hardship. I can personally attest that he helped hundreds of people, and he did so with a quiet humility that never sought recognition.

Second, I recall vividly the time of President Barack Obama's first inauguration. Tickets were scarce—scarcer, I admit, than even a Member of Congress might like. Yet Andrew—resourceful as ever—managed to get tickets and drove his well-known pickup truck all the way from Chicago to Washington, D.C. At the very last minute, he called me: "Danny, I need a room. I've got my granddaughter with me—and some family and friends. We need a place to stay."

I thought it would be impossible to find accommodations so close to the inauguration date. But somehow, through God's grace and a bit of determination, we found a room big enough for them all. Andrew's joy in that moment reflected the pride so many of us felt witnessing history. And in true Andrew fashion, the trip wasn't about himself—it was about creating memories for his loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Washington was a man of faith, family, community, and conviction. He raised children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who loved him dearly. He worked hard his entire life, retiring from Ryerson Steel after decades of service. He built businesses, guided neighbors, supported churches, and anchored his community with generosity, wisdom, and love.

He was a storyteller, a counselor, and a living example of what it means to give more than you receive. He taught lessons using props, pictures, and humor. He brought people roses, and through them, messages of hope. He attended events across the city, spreading faith and fellowship wherever he went.

Mr. Speaker, Andrew Washington lived his life with purpose. He gave more than he took. He stood tall, spoke truth, walked boldly, and served faithfully. His legacy is one of service, compassion, resourcefulness, and unshakable faith.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Deacon Andrew Washington and in extending heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife, Leola Washington; his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren; and the entire Washington family.

May they be comforted in knowing that this good and faithful servant has finished his course, kept the faith, and left a legacy that will continue to bless generations.

## TRIBUTE TO HERBERT GADSON

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and legacy of an educator, public servant, freedom fighter, and man of deep faith whose service to the people of Hollywood, South Carolina, and the Lowcountry of South Carolina spanned more than five decades. The Honorable Herbert Gadson transitioned on January 2, 2026, leaving behind a community forever changed by his courage and leadership.

My longtime friend, Herbert Gadson, was born on September 22, 1948, in Charleston County, South Carolina. Reared in the close-knit community of Hollywood, his life was shaped early by faith, family, and an unshakable belief in education as the pathway to opportunity. Baptized at Saint Luke AME Church and later a devoted member of Wesley United Methodist Church, his life reflected the values instilled in him from childhood—service, discipline, and responsibility.

A gifted scholar, Mr. Gadson graduated as Valedictorian of the Baptist Hill High School Class of 1967. At a time when barriers for Black students were formidable, he matriculated at South Carolina State University, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees in education. While a student there, his life was forever changed by events that would become known as the Orangeburg Massacre. Beaten by state police days earlier and later shot during the protest, Mr. Gadson survived one of the darkest moments of the Civil Rights Movement, carrying a bullet in his hip for the rest of his life. But rather than retreat, he emerged with a renewed commitment to justice, dignity, and public service.

Education remained Herbert Gadson's first calling. For 30 years, he served as a teacher, administrator, and mentor in various South Carolina public schools. Whether in North Augusta, Johns Island, Wadmalaw Island, or Hollywood, he was known for firm discipline, high expectations, and genuine care for his students. He was more than an educator; he was a life coach, mentor, and a father figure to many.

In 1983, Mr. Gadson entered public service as a write-in candidate for Hollywood Town Council. In 1989, he made history when he was elected the first African American mayor of Hollywood. He served with distinction until

2003. As mayor, he confronted the crack cocaine crisis, rebuilt infrastructure, promoted transparency in government, and achieved what many believed impossible—bringing water and sewer services to a long-neglected rural town. His leadership transformed Hollywood, and his legacy is permanently marked by the Herbert Gadson Intersection, over which hangs the town's only traffic light.

Mr. Gadson was a devoted husband to Linda Gadson, a loving father to Reginald, Telley, and Shaytee, a grandfather, and a beloved friend to many. He served as Finance Chair and Treasurer at Wesley United Methodist Church and on the Parish Relations and Nominations Committees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring The Honorable Herbert Gadson—a servant of the people and a pillar of hope whose legacy will continue to be a source of guidance to Hollywood and South Carolina for generations to come.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE  
LANCASTER COUNTY BEE-  
KEEPERS SOCIETY

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society on their 150th anniversary.

The Lancaster County Beekeepers Society first met on March 13, 1876, in the city of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Founded by beekeepers with Lancastrian surnames like Reist, Hershey, and Herr, the first subject discussed was “Will bee-keeping pay?” The Lancaster County Beekeepers Society has continued to meet in the following 150 years, making it the oldest continuously operating, non-profit, honeybee club in the United States.

Throughout their long history, the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society has provided an opportunity for beekeepers to share their insights with one another and promote bee-related products. The club also provides public awareness about honeybees and their importance through lectures, exhibits, and programs like their annual New Beekeeper Workshop. The workshop has trained over 1,000 new beekeepers since its inception in 2010. These initiatives have benefited schools, churches, clubs, farm shows, and fairs across the county and state.

Honeybees are a vital part of our ecosystem. As the Lancaster County Beekeepers Society celebrates a monumental 150 years, their service to the community deserves to “bee” commended. I thank the club for what they do, and I wish them another 150 years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING DR. ANGELA  
“ANGIE” PACCIONE

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 8, 2026*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Angela “Angie” Paccione for her service to constituents in Colorado as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE).

Dr. Paccione has been a lifelong public servant, working in education for over 27 years before joining CDHE. Since her appointment to this role in 2019, Dr. Paccione has worked to expand access to higher education for students of all backgrounds. Dr. Paccione has helped implement a variety of programs to increase access and affordability for low-income students, including the FosterED and EmpowerED scholarship programs for students who grew up in foster care and who are experiencing homelessness. Furthermore, Dr. Paccione helped implement the Colorado Re-Engaged Initiative to allow thousands of Coloradans who did not finish a four-year degree the opportunity to earn an associate's degree. And under her leadership, Colorado was ranked first in the Nation for educational attainment in 2022.

Throughout her tenure, Dr. Paccione has been a dedicated advocate, working to expand opportunities and improve educational outcomes for thousands of Colorado students. She has conducted robust outreach to prospective students about educational opportunities and resources offered by the state, including speaking with high school students and families at a FAFSA resource fair held by my office at Bear Creek High School in April of 2025.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to thank Dr. Paccione for her years of service and to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.