

Moon in 1972, Firefly's team has opened a new chapter of commercial lunar access that will strengthen our national security and scientific leadership. As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies, I am proud to support the federal investments that helped make this success possible.

I commend the entire Firefly team, from the engineers at their Cedar Park headquarters to the technicians at the Texas Rocket Ranch in Briggs and their more than 500-person workforce. The 31st District of Texas is home to warriors, farmers, and now, Moon landers. I congratulate Firefly Aerospace on one year since they reached the Moon and showed the world what American commercial space can do.

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RECOGNIZING CADET COLONEL  
SLATER SHANNON FOR EARNING  
THE GENERAL CARL A. SPAATZ  
AWARD

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**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Colonel Slater Shannon for earning the General Carl A. Spaatz Award.

Cadet Colonel Shannon is the 2,574th individual in history to receive the General Carl A. Spaatz award. Named after General Spaatz, the first Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force and first chairman of the CAP National Board, the award is the highest honor that a CAP cadet can receive. Qualifying individuals spend years in the cadet program and undergo physical training, academic preparation, and leadership development.

Cadet Colonel Shannon serves with the Jesse Jones Composite Squadron 304, based at Lancaster Airport, of the Pennsylvania Wing Civil Air Patrol. During his time with CAP, he served as Cadet Commander of Squadron 304, was Primary Representative to the Pennsylvania Wing Cadet Advisory Council and assisted in multiple emergency service missions. He currently serves as the Secretary for the Northeast Region Committee of CAP. Cadet Colonel Shannon is also an accomplished student both in his CAP service and his private life, having completed aerospace education programs provided through the military while sustaining a 4.07 GPA. His accomplishments have earned recognition not just from myself, but from President Donald J. Trump, who wrote to him a letter of recognition.

The General Carl A. Spaatz Award goes to an average of five cadets out of one thousand, and the accomplishments of Cadet Colonel Slater Shannon merit him this prestigious honor. I thank Cadet Colonel Shannon for his selfless service to this country and I congratulate him on receiving this prestigious recognition. I look forward to seeing what his bright future holds.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF LORRIE ANNE PARKER

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Lorrie Anne Parker of Lexington, Kentucky. She passed away on February 25, 2026.

Lorrie was born in Frankfort, Kentucky. She grew up worshipping with her family at Providence Church of Christ and attending Bible Camp in London, Kentucky. Lorrie was blessed with a compassionate heart and desire to serve others.

Lorrie grew very passionate about defending and protecting the unborn. She worked over the years with groups who shared her passion for Life. For twenty-eight years, she served on the Board of Right to Life of Central Kentucky, serving two terms as Chapter President. She also served as Vice President of Kentucky Right to Life. Lorrie helped establish the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn in the historic Frankfort Cemetery, which overlooks the state Capitol.

Lorrie became active in campaigns of candidates who shared her beliefs. She served in the office of Congressman Ernie Fletcher. When Fletcher was elected Governor of Kentucky, she worked in his administration. She later served as Office Manager for Governor Matt Bevin. She was highly respected by all who worked with her.

Lorrie is survived by her husband of twenty-five years, Colonel (Ret.) James "Steve" Parker.

Through her work and her passions, Lorrie touched countless lives. Her life was guided by her deep faith in her Lord Jesus. She was truly a Godly woman who lived a consequential life. I am honored to call her my friend and to lift up her life before the House of Representatives.

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RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES R.  
DOWNING

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the pioneering children's cancer researcher Dr. James R. Downing, the President and CEO of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, who is stepping down from twelve years in that role to return to the laboratory. As CEO, he has led a \$12.9 billion commitment to accelerate research and treatments of catastrophic pediatric diseases. His own laboratory research has focused on the genetic basis of cancers. As CEO, he was instrumental in creating the Pediatric Cancer Genome Project, a genetic sequencing effort to discover why childhood cancers arise, spread and resist treatment.

As the leader of St. Jude, he has been a driving force behind improving survival rates of cancer and other catastrophic diseases internationally by creating a global alliance of over 400 health care institutions assuring children around the world have access to the best and

most-advanced therapies and care. Overseeing the management of the St. Jude, Dr. Downing has been recognized for its outstanding workplace culture and for being a forward-thinking workplace for diversity and for women. Dr. Downing has received numerous honors, including election to the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as receiving the Memorial Sloan Kettering Prize, the E. Donnell Thomas Lecture and Prize from the American Society of Hematology, and the Pediatric Oncology Award from the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Dr. Downing received his undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Michigan. He joined St. Jude in 1986 after training in anatomic pathology at Washington University in St. Louis and a fellowship in hematopathology at the University of Florida at Gainesville. In 2016, he was named to the Blue Ribbon Panel of then-Vice President Joe Biden's National Cancer Moonshot Initiative. In 2013, he was a finalist for Time magazine's list of the World's Most Influential People. He is a co-author on numerous medical journal articles on childhood cancers and treatment.

While we await the naming of his successor as CEO this summer, I wish Dr. Downing well as he returns to the laboratory at St. Jude and hope that he continues to make significant progress in finding preventions, treatments, and cures for cancer, which will benefit millions of people around the world.

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RECOGNIZING PASTOR FREDDIE  
HINSON, JR.

**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 dedicated community leader in my district, Pastor Freddie Hinson, Jr. Pastor Hinson has been a devoted member, volunteer, and Spiritual Advisor to the YMCA Togetherhood Program, where his guidance and leadership have made a transformative impact in one of our community's most underserved areas.

Pastor Hinson's service goes far beyond ceremonial duties. He actively mentors leaders, encourages volunteers, and helps shape initiatives that address food insecurity, health disparities, neighborhood revitalization, and family empowerment. Through prayer, strategic insight, and hands-on participation, he brings both spiritual grounding and practical leadership to every effort, ensuring that the YMCA Togetherhood Program's initiatives are not only meaningful but sustainable. A native of Clearwater, Florida, Pastor Hinson accepted his call to public ministry while serving in the U.S. Army at SHAPE, Belgium, where he served as a Soldier, Minister, and Musician. Upon returning home, he was licensed as a minister and faithfully served in leadership roles for decades, including as Senior Pastor of Union Baptist Church in Port Richey and currently as Senior Pastor of New Hope Baptist Church of Hudson, a position he has held for 28 years. Beyond his ministry, Pastor Hinson has strengthened partnerships between faith communities, civic leaders, and grassroots organizations. He served as Director of the City of Clearwater's Neighborhood

Services Department, where he worked to promote neighborhood sustainability and urban redevelopment. His efforts have mobilized community volunteers, fostered unity, and created lasting positive change in the lives of residents throughout Hernando County. Pastor Hinson's life reflects a commitment to service, family, and faith. Married for forty years, he is a proud father of two daughters and grandfather of two granddaughters. His devotion to family mirrors his dedication to ministry and community, demonstrating a life grounded in integrity, servant leadership, and lasting impact.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Freddie Hinson, Jr. for his decades of faithful service, leadership, and transformative contributions to our community. For his extraordinary commitment to strengthening both church and community, I am proud to honor Pastor Hinson as a 2026 Heroes Among Us recipient for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING SHAGGY 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 Shaggy in celebration of Reggae Month. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, reggae music represents the heartbeat of Jamaican culture and continues to serve as a powerful global force for unity, creativity, and cultural expression, celebrated annually during Reggae Month in recognition of the artists who have elevated the genre worldwide; and

Whereas, Shaggy, born Orville Richard Burrell in Kingston, Jamaica, has become one of the most internationally successful reggae and dancehall artists of his generation, bridging Jamaican roots with global mainstream appeal; and

Whereas, with iconic hits including "It Wasn't Me," "Boombastic," "Angel," "In the Summertime," and "Oh Carolina," Shaggy has achieved worldwide acclaim, bringing reggae and dancehall to international charts and audiences across continents; and

Whereas, his album *Boombastic* earned the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album in 1996, and his collaborative album *44/876* with Sting earned the Grammy Award for Best Reggae Album in 2019, marking multiple decades of sustained excellence and global impact; and

Whereas, a proud Jamaican-American and veteran of the United States Marine Corps who served during the Persian Gulf War, Shaggy's journey reflects dedication, discipline, and perseverance, qualities that have shaped both his life and career; and

Whereas, in recognition of his cultural and artistic contributions, he has been honored with the Jamaican Order of Distinction at the rank of Commander and awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Brown University; and

Whereas, through decades of music, philanthropy, and international representation of Jamaican culture, Shaggy continues to inspire new generations and expand the global influence of reggae music; and therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, proudly honor Shaggy in

celebration of Reggae Month, recognizing his extraordinary contributions to reggae and dancehall music, his service, his cultural leadership, and his enduring global impact.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND LAKE THEATER

**HON. LATEEFAH SIMON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Ms. SIMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Grand Lake Theater, a historic movie palace located in Oakland, California.

The Grand Lake Theater opened its doors to patrons on March 6, 1926, boasting a Neoclassical facade designed by famed Bay Area architects the Reid Brothers and a striking, 52-foot-tall rooftop sign complete with 2,980 colored bulbs. At the time of its opening, the Grand Lake was the largest theater West of the Mississippi River. Its 2,200 seats and full theatrical stage hosted silent movies, and many stars of the vaudeville era, including the Jazz Age comedy duo Burns and Allen.

With the increasing popularity of so-called "talking pictures," the Grand Lake transitioned to exclusively screening movies in the late 1920s. Even during the 1940s, at a time when the city of Oakland played host to 49 different cinemas, the Grand Lake stood apart for its opulence and architectural flair.

The Grand Lake was not immune from the difficulties brought on by the decline of theater attendance in the post-war era. In December of 1979, the theater's ground lease was purchased by Allen Michaan's Renaissance Rialto theater group. Mr. Michaan invested heavily in the historic theater's restoration, expanding the number of available movie screens by renovating the original retail wing of the building into two smaller movie palaces in the Egyptian and Moorish styles and restoring the enormous rooftop display, the largest surviving rotary contact incandescent sign in the world. In the early 1980s, a Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ was installed in the main auditorium, delighting movie-goers with vintage music on Friday and Saturday evenings. In 2021, Mr. Michaan purchased the actual property of the Grand Lake from the descendants of its original owners, ensuring its future preservation.

The Grand Lake Theater is a beloved icon of Oakland and anchor of the vibrant Grand/Lakeshore neighborhood. In recent years, the Grand Lake has played host to a vast array of community events, charity fundraisers, and film premieres, most recently debuting the films "Freaky Tales" and "Sinners," the Oscar-nominated movie by Oakland director Ryan Coogler. The historic theater has been the winner of the East Bay Express's "Best Place to See a Movie" readers' poll for over a decade and, in 2025, was named by Variety as one of "The 21 Coolest Movie Theaters in the World." I congratulate the Grand Lake Theater on 100 years of entertaining and dazzling the people of Oakland and the East Bay, and here is to another century of fun, community, and entertainment.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LOUIS "LON" O. NORMANDIN II

**HON. SAM T. LICCARDO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 3, 2026*

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Louis "Lon" O. Normandin, II of Monte Sereno, California. A beloved Silicon Valley businessman, philanthropist, and community leader, Lon passed away on December 17, 2025, at the age of 91. Born and bred in San José, Lon graduated from Bellarmine College Preparatory and earned a business degree from Santa Clara University, and then proudly served our country as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He married his high school sweetheart, Margaret "Peggy" Normandin, and together they shared seventy years of marriage and raised a large, loving family.

Following his military service, Lon Normandin carried on his family's storied business legacy, serving as President and Chairman of the Normandin car dealership, a family enterprise bearing the Normandin name since its founding in 1875 as a horse-carriage manufacturer. Under his leadership, the dealership continued as a family-run business through its fifth and sixth generations, a rare achievement in America that reflects the deep bond between the Normandin family, their business, and our community. Over more than sixty years in the auto industry, Lon earned national recognition and led dealer efforts to rebuild Chrysler alongside CEO Lee Iacocca. Lon became a finalist for the national TIME Dealer of the Year award, and he helped lead his industry as Chairman of Chrysler's National Dealer Council and as President of Chrysler's California Advertising Association. A renowned community and business leader, Lon also co-founded Heritage Bank in Silicon Valley.

Lon Normandin demonstrated a deep commitment to living out his Catholic faith, supporting many in need, and particularly education for children from struggling families. As a generous benefactor, he served on the boards of the Catholic Community Foundation, Santa Clara University, Bellarmine College Preparatory, Presentation High School, and Notre Dame High School. He led major fundraising efforts to build and expand Catholic elementary schools in the area, helping to establish San José's Saint Frances Cabrini School, Holy Spirit School, and Sacred Heart Nativity Schools. Lon served the community and his faith as a longtime member of the Knights of Malta, and he was a familiar face at the 6:00 a.m. daily Mass. His generosity extended beyond the church; for many years he volunteered weekly at Martha's Kitchen in San José, serving meals to neighbors in need, often bringing his children and grandchildren along to embrace the value of service.

Above all his accomplishments, I remember Lon for his kindness. Lon treated everyone with respect, offered a ready smile or laugh, and sought to help anyone in need—and many came to him and Peggy seeking help. He served as a wonderful role model for me in my youth, and as I have learned, for many others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Louis "Lon" Normandin, II and in extending our deepest