

For her selfless dedication, generous spirit, and profound impact on our community, I am proud to recognize Denise O'Brien today as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

APPRECIATING PATRIOT LOU
HOLTZ

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful to express appreciation for the life and extraordinary career of Coach Lou Holtz, who led the University of South Carolina Gamecocks football team from 1999 to 2004.

He will always be remembered by his famous quote, "Today's athletes talk about rights and privileges. And the players 50 years ago talked about obligations and responsibilities. And to me that describes society today."

I include in the RECORD a review of his accomplishments presented by the Dawson Funeral Home of East Liverpool, Ohio:

Louis Leo "Lou" Holtz, a national championship-winning college football coach and National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Famer member who devoted more than five decades to college coaching and broadcasting, died on March 4, 2026, at age 89.

Holtz passed away peacefully surrounded by his family in Orlando, Florida. A devoted husband, father, faithful Catholic and one of college football's most legendary figures, he leaves behind a legacy defined by faith, family, perseverance and an unwavering belief in the potential of others.

Born January 6, 1937, in Follansbee, West Virginia, as one of three children to Andrew and Anne Holtz, Holtz grew up in a working-class family that instilled in him a relentless work ethic and an abiding sense of gratitude from an early age.

Holtz married his East Liverpool hometown love and best friend, Beth Barcus, on July 22, 1961. Their loving, faith-filled marriage endured more than five decades until Beth's passing in 2020, and those who knew them will remember Lou and Beth as inseparable partners through both life's joys and challenges.

He is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: Luanne Altenbaumer (Terry) of Houston, Texas, their daughter Lindsay Altenbaumer (Raul Ganzalez) and their children Amelia and R.J.; Louis Leo "Skip" Holtz (Jennifer) of Six Mile, South Carolina, their children Louis Leo "Trey" (Rachel), Chad and Hailey; Kevin Holtz (Kelly) of Port Orange, Florida, their children Katherine and Aaron; Liz Messaglia (Mike) of Brownsburg, Indiana, and their children Zachary (Nicole), Beth and Jacob. In addition to his wife and parents, Holtz was preceded in death by his sisters Vicki Haggerty and Shirley Youst.

After earning his undergraduate degree in history from Kent State University, where he played football for two seasons, a football injury led him to assist the coaching staff and later complete his master's degree at the University of Iowa, laying the foundation for a life devoted to teaching, coaching, and inspiring others.

Commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in the U.S. Army Reserve upon graduation, he carried that commitment forward throughout his life, supporting the military

through multiple USO tours and uplifting deployed service members in places such as Camp Liberty in Baghdad and Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan.

Holtz began his football coaching career in 1960 and spent time as an assistant coach at Iowa, William & Mary, Connecticut, South Carolina and Ohio State (under Hall of Famer Woody Hayes), winning the National Championship in 1968.

He went on to excel by building programs as head coach at William & Mary (1969-71), North Carolina State (1972-75), Arkansas (1977-83), Minnesota (1984-85), Notre Dame (1986-96) and South Carolina (1999-2004). He finished with a career collegiate record of 249-132-7 and won a dozen postseason bowl games. At each stop, he inherited a program with a losing record and transformed it into a winner, taking every team to a bowl game by his second season and ultimately capturing the 1988 National Championship with the Fighting Irish. His extraordinary ability to revive struggling teams made him the only coach in college football history to send six different programs to bowl games and to guide four of them to final Top 15 rankings.

His love of golf began at William & Mary, where coaching the golf team to supplement his football salary sparked a lifelong passion for the game. He later treasured his memberships at Lake Nona and Augusta National, forming lasting friendships on their fairways, celebrating six holes in one, and cherishing the highlight of winning the Jamboree at Augusta.

Holtz lived by the values of trust, love and commitment. He taught three essential rules: do what is right, do it to the best of your ability, and show people you care. These principles not only shaped the teams he built, but more importantly, they shaped character, instilled purpose, and helped young men become the best versions of themselves, on the field and in life.

Lou Holtz received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Trump during a White House ceremony on December 3, 2020, recognizing his extraordinary impact as one of America's greatest football coaches and a lifelong teacher of character and leadership.

Beyond the gridiron, he became a trusted analyst for CBS and ESPN, a New York Times bestselling author and one of America's most sought-after motivational speakers. Known for his quick-wit and charm, he turned every podium into an opportunity to inspire others to believe in themselves. His wit, wisdom and warmth reached far beyond football.

Through the Holtz Charitable Foundation, he and Beth supported countless educational and community initiatives, continuing to shape lives long after his final game. Holtz's Heroes Foundation, organized by his former Notre Dame players, supports scholarships at Notre Dame, former players and the Bread of Life Food Drive.

RECOGNIZING JOSELINE TRUJILLO
AYLLON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary contributions of one of my constituents, Joseline Trujillo Ayllon, a devoted volunteer with CASA Citrus Abuse Shelter. Ms. Trujillo Ayllon works tirelessly—and often quietly—on behalf of survivors and their families. She is, in many

ways, a "secret agent" for those in need: a compassionate helper who seeks no recognition, only results. Whether securing free theme park tickets to give survivors and their children moments of joy and normalcy, or spending countless hours listening with empathy and care, she consistently goes above and beyond to uplift others. Many of her most meaningful efforts are carried out behind the scenes, known only to those whose lives she has touched. She is the silent, steady force—the glue that helps hold the safe house together—ensuring that those who have endured trauma feel supported, valued, and not alone.

Mr. Speaker, part of what makes our Nation so great is the willingness of ordinary Americans to selflessly give back to their communities. Volunteerism is a cornerstone of our society and a vital thread in the fabric that unites us. Ms. Trujillo Ayllon embodies this spirit of service in every sense. It is clear that Joseline Trujillo Ayllon has made a profoundly positive impact on our community, and I am deeply grateful for her dedication and service. I am proud to recognize her as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA JUROR PAY PARITY
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Juror Pay Parity Act, which would require D.C.'s local trial court, the Superior Court, to pay jurors the same amount federal courts pay jurors. Currently, the Superior Court pays jurors the same amount federal courts pay jurors, but the Superior Court has sometimes paid less.

Under the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, Congress assumed responsibility for funding the local D.C. courts. The local D.C. courts, however, have always been under the direct control of Congress, even when they were funded by D.C. The D.C. Home Rule Act prohibits the D.C. Council from enacting any law with respect to any provision of Title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to the organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts). Under Title II, the Board of Judges of the Superior Court sets juror pay.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING LYNN SKELTON

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynn Skelton, a dedicated community leader whose longstanding commitment to service has made a meaningful and enduring impact throughout Pasco County. Having relocated to Florida at the age of two and proudly calling Pasco County home since 1984, Ms. Skelton has demonstrated a deep and sustained investment in the growth, stability, and well-being of her community. Her heart for

service is perhaps most evident through her extensive involvement with Habitat for Humanity, where she has generously shared her time, talent, and resources for many years.

Through her company, ProSource of Port Richey, Lynn has donated flooring materials and sponsored multiple Habitat projects, directly supporting families striving to achieve the dream of homeownership. Her contributions have done more than improve physical structures—they have helped transform houses into homes, providing families with stability, dignity, and renewed opportunity.

Lynn's leadership extends well beyond material generosity. She served on the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors from 2021 to 2022 and later on the Executive Committee from 2023 to 2024, helping shape the organization's strategic direction and strengthen its mission. Most recently, she continued her civic engagement through service on the Pasco Leadership Council from 2024 to 2025, further demonstrating her dedication to responsible leadership and community advancement. Lynn attributes her commitment to service to a profound sense of gratitude—gratitude for her faith, for her community, and for the personal growth she has experienced throughout her life. That gratitude has consistently translated into meaningful action, as she seeks opportunities to give back and uplift those around her.

Her example reminds us that strong communities are built not only by institutions, but by individuals willing to lead with humility, generosity, and vision. For her steadfast dedication, generous spirit, and lasting contributions to Pasco County, I am proud to recognize Lynn Skelton as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING BRADLEY FLICK

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Bradley Flick, who, after nearly four decades of service advancing American aviation and aerospace innovation at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, will retire this month.

Brad began his career in 1986 at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center, then called the Dryden Flight Research Center, as a flight systems engineer, helping lead research flights and experimental programs, such as the F/A-18 High Alpha Research Vehicle (HARV) project, that pushed the boundaries of aeronautics and strengthened our Nation's leadership in aerospace technology. Over the years, he served as mission controller on approximately 100 HARV research flights. Brad rose through the ranks as an engineer, chief engineer, and research leader, ultimately serving as Director of NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center—the Nation's premier civilian flight research institution.

Known by his colleagues as a compassionate leader, Brad helped guide groundbreaking efforts in sustainable aviation and next-generation flight research. Under his leadership, Armstrong Flight Research Center advanced technologies that are shaping the future of flight—from NASA's all-electric exper-

imental aircraft to research into quiet supersonic aviation that could transform how Americans travel.

Brad often reflected on the legacy of those who came before him, noting that today's researchers are "riding on the shoulders of legendary flight pioneers" who made discoveries at Armstrong Flight Research Center over the last 75 years. With that perspective, he led his team with humility, purpose, and a deep belief that the next great aviation breakthrough was still waiting to be discovered.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Brad Flick on his retirement and thank him for his decades of service to our Nation, to the aerospace community, and to the enduring spirit of American innovation that lives in the Aerospace Valley.

RECOGNIZING MR. GREG FIRST

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary servant leader and veteran, Mr. Greg First, whose selfless dedication to his community embodies the very spirit of the 2026 Heroes Among Us Congressional Award. As a proud United States Air Force veteran, Greg has carried his commitment to service far beyond his time in uniform. For the past five years, he has faithfully volunteered at the Metropolitan Ministries East Pasco Family Support Center, where he has become an indispensable member of the team. During that time, he has completed more than 250 volunteer shifts and contributed over 860 hours of hands-on, compassionate service to individuals and families in need. Greg's work is often quiet but deeply impactful. Whether answering phones, comforting a caller in crisis, assisting families seeking essential support, or guiding guests through available resources, he approaches every responsibility with patience, empathy, and genuine care. His steady presence offers reassurance during some of life's most difficult moments.

What sets Greg apart is not only his consistency, but the warmth he brings to every interaction. Staff, volunteers, and clients alike describe him as a source of hope and encouragement. His positive energy and contagious enthusiasm create an atmosphere of dignity and welcome throughout the East Pasco campus. Simply put, he lifts spirits simply by being present. Beyond his daily volunteer efforts, Greg's deep roots in the East Pasco community strengthen the mission of Metropolitan Ministries. Through longstanding local relationships and authentic community engagement, he helps build meaningful connections that expand outreach and ensure that support reaches those who need it most.

Greg's faithful and humble service reflects the very best of our Nation's values. He does not seek recognition or applause. Instead, he quietly and consistently works to improve the lives of others—motivated not by reward, but by conviction and compassion. In every sense, Greg First exemplifies what it means to be a hero among us. His dedication to both country and community serves as an inspiring reminder that the call to serve does not end with military service—it continues in the everyday

acts of kindness that strengthen our neighborhoods and uplift our fellow citizens. For his extraordinary commitment, uplifting presence, and steadfast devotion to serving others, I am proud to recognize Greg First as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of Texas' Southernmost College (TSC), the first institution of higher education in the Rio Grande Valley. For a century, Texas Southmost College has made a lasting impact on our community, expanding opportunity and improving the quality of life for generations of South Texas families.

Since its founding in 1926, Texas Southmost College has grown into one of the most affordable and accessible higher education centers in the region. It has empowered students to pursue their academic and professional goals close to home.

Throughout this time, TSC has grown to be a nationally recognized, community-rooted, and student-centered institution dedicated to transforming lives through high-quality education. Its commitment to serving the Rio Grande Valley has built a stronger workforce and brighter future for our region.

As Texas Southmost College marks its centennial, it continues to expand access to education through its dual enrollment program. Partnering with 24 public, private, and charter schools, TSC allows students to earn college credit, often at no cost, and even earn an associate's degree before graduating high school.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 34th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Texas Southmost College and all those who have contributed to its mission over the past century. May TSC continue to strength, serve, and uplift the Rio Grande Valley for many generations to come.

RECOGNIZING MR. JAY GUNDY

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 9, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional volunteer whose quiet dedication has made a profound and lasting impact on the Disability Achievement Center—Mr. Jay Gundy. Since beginning his volunteer service in May 2024, Jay has exemplified the very best of community commitment. Month after month, he dedicated approximately ten hours of his time to one of the most essential—yet often unseen—functions of the organization: inventorying donated durable medical equipment. While this work may occur behind the scenes, it is critical to ensuring that individuals with disabilities receive the