

Their dedication and accomplishments not only enrich Tamarac and Broward County but also serve as a lasting example of the impact one can have through service, leadership, and a commitment to community. By honoring these women, we celebrate the enduring legacy of women's leadership and the vital role it plays in shaping a more vibrant, inclusive, and connected society.

RECOGNIZING ELANA MEYERS
TAYLOR'S HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, during Women's History Month, we recognize women who have written their own chapter and blazed a trail for women around the world. On Saturday, March 21, my constituents in Douglasville and Douglas County will welcome home our Olympic hero, Elana Meyers Taylor.

Going into the 2026 Winter Games, Elana was already the most decorated Black Winter Olympian in history, having previously won three silver and two bronze Olympic medals. At her fifth Olympic appearance at the Milano-Cortina 2026 Games, Elana's brilliant performance in the women's monobob event earned her very first Olympic gold medal, further cementing her status as a Team USA legend. I am thrilled that the only 2026 Winter Olympian from Georgia was able to achieve such a remarkable feat.

In the moments following her historic win, millions across the world were moved watching Elana embrace her two sons and sign "Mommy won" to each of them. Elana has said that she would not have been able to win gold without her children, and that she fought for this highest achievement because of them. On and off the track, she is an outstanding role model for parents of children with disabilities. It is fitting that she was recently given her own name sign by ASL instructor Nicole Mitchell—a tremendous honor which can only be bestowed by a deaf person.

The community is so proud of Elana's historic accomplishments, and we thank her for boldly leading the way for women everywhere. On behalf of Georgia's 6th Congressional District and the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate her on her well-deserved Olympic gold medal.

HONORING JULIE A. POOLE

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Julie A. Poole as she retires after more than three decades of distinguished service to the federal government, including 25 years with the U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Inspector General.

Julie began her federal career in 1992 as an auditor at the National Science Foundation. She later served as an auditor with the Department of the Treasury, Office of Inspector

General from 1997 to 2000. In 2000, Julie joined the House OIG, where she would spend the next quarter century advancing oversight, accountability, and sound stewardship of public resources.

At the House OIG, Julie's expertise, professionalism, and commitment to excellence earned the respect of colleagues and stakeholders alike. Over the years, her leadership and skills led to her appointment as Assistant Director for Performance and Financial Audits and Investigations. In this role, she guided complex audit and investigative work, strengthened internal controls, and contributed significantly to the effectiveness and credibility of the Office of Inspector General.

Julie's legacy is defined not only by her measurable accomplishments, but also by her values of integrity, accountability, and quality, which she cultivated throughout her career. Her dedication to public service has left a lasting impact on the institution and her colleagues.

As Julie embarks on this new chapter, we extend our deepest gratitude and warmest wishes for a fulfilling retirement. Her career stands as a testament to the values that uphold the U.S. House of Representatives and the commitment to serve the American people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, due to a death in my family, I missed several votes the week of March 2, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, Previous question regarding H. Res. 1095; YEA on Roll Call No. 80, Passage on H. Res. 1095; YEA on Roll Call No. 81, Passage of S. 723; YEA on Roll Call No. 82, Passage of H.R. 6472; and YEA on Roll Call No. 83, Committee referral of H. Res. 1100.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DONALD MICHAEL WITTENBERG

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Donald Michael Wittenberg, a Philadelphia community leader and constituent of Pennsylvania's 2nd Congressional District who passed away on March 5th. Don's leadership in the Philadelphia community cannot be overstated, and I am incredibly grateful for his friendship over many years, as well as the contributions he has made to our city.

Don graduated from Olney High School in 1964 and Temple University in 1969 with bachelor's and master's degrees in education. He would go on to serve as an educator within the School District of Philadelphia for 42 years. He taught at Meade, McClure, Rowen, and Leeds Middle Schools, served as an Auxiliary Principal at Kenderton and Hanna Elementary Schools, and as the Principal of Pen-

nell and Franklin Elementary Schools. Don completed his career as an Educational Facilities Planner for the school district's central office.

Don's impact on the Philadelphia community, however, went beyond the classroom and the thousands of students he served. He has served as a member, Treasurer, and President of B'nai B'rith Educators Unit, an organization dedicated to supporting Jewish educators in Philadelphia. He was the Curator for the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center for 25 years and was honored by the Columbus Forum as the first recipient of their Unity Award for promoting cultural awareness.

Honoring Don's life and service as an educator and community leader would not be complete without also paying tribute to him as a beloved husband to his wife, Bonnie, and the late Louellan, father to Steven and Jan, and grandfather to Lillian, Aidan, and Leo. I offer my deepest condolences to the Wittenberg family and their friends, and I will continue to hold them in my prayers.

Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting that the House recognizes Don for his exceptional life and thanks him for his leadership in the Philadelphia community and education system.

RECOGNIZING LAVON STENNIS-WILLIAMS DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a true example of resiliency, generosity and commitment to serving others: LaVon Stennis-Williams from Omaha, Nebraska.

LaVon is a woman of many titles—attorney, author, entrepreneur, and mentor. But perhaps her most defining characteristic is her unwavering commitment to the idea that our past does not define our future, and that history, when preserved, can be a powerful tool for healing.

A graduate of Creighton University with both her Bachelor's and Juris Doctor degrees, LaVon has spent her life building bridges. In 2012, drawing from her own personal journey, she founded ReConnect, Inc. This non-profit has served over 500 individuals, helping those currently or formerly incarcerated navigate the difficult transition back into society. Through her "Success Prep" curriculum, she teaches a philosophy that our communities desperately need: the mindset of being "better, not bitter."

But LaVon's service to Omaha doesn't stop at professional development. She understands that to move forward, we must also look back. She transformed her private doll collection into The Doll Museum of African-American History. This museum, which is open to the public free of charge, houses a collection of over 3,000 historic dolls.

Far more than simple artifacts, these figures serve as a unique lens through which people can examine three centuries of Black history and culture. By meticulously curating this exhibit, Ms. Stennis-Williams offers our community—and particularly our youth—a tangible connection to the past.

Her efforts ensure that the legacy of African-American resilience, creativity, and heritage is not only preserved but remains a living, breathing part of our public education. This museum stands as a testament to her belief that understanding where we have been is essential to determining where we are going.

Whether she is writing children's books to honor the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen through her publishing house, TwoBee Publishing, or coaching a client toward a new career path, LaVon Stennis-Williams is a builder of dreams.

LaVon Stennis-Williams has made extraordinary contributions to Nebraska's 2nd District and we are grateful for her tireless work in preserving our Nation's history while empowering its future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on March 17, 2026, as I was detained due to unforeseen inclement weather causing extended flight cancellations, prohibiting me from arriving for the first vote series of the week. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 88, H.R. 4294, Mitigation and Watermen Support Act of 2025; YEA on Roll Call No. 89, S. 3971, Small Business Innovation and Economic Security Act; YEA on Roll Call No. 90, H. Res. 1115, Ordering the previous question; and YEA on Roll Call No. 91, H. Res. 1115, Agreeing to the Resolution.

HONORING CHANCELLOR SHARON GABER

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chancellor Sharon Gaber for her selection as the Charlotte Business Journal's 2025 Business Person of the Year. Chancellor Gaber is an extraordinary leader representing an equally extraordinary institution in the great state of North Carolina—one that also happens to be my alma mater.

I have personally known every one of the chancellors who have led UNC Charlotte. Each was an exceptional leader, with particular gifts who served our university at the perfect time. Chancellor Gaber continues this legacy. She is a driven visionary who excels at building teams and inspiring excellence in others.

Under the leadership of Chancellor Gaber, UNC Charlotte has experienced record enrollment, achieved R1 research status, and made major strategic investments to transform the university and the region it serves.

This progress is not happening in isolation. UNC Charlotte has become a powerful engine for economic growth—driving innovation, workforce development, and research partnerships that benefit North Carolina and the country. From expanding access to higher education,

to supporting cutting-edge research, Chancellor Gaber has positioned UNC Charlotte as a model for how public universities can thrive.

I congratulate Chancellor Gaber and the entire UNC Charlotte community on this well-deserved recognition and their continued impact. It is fitting that her leadership has been recognized with the Charlotte Business Journal's 2025 Business Person of the Year award. This is a proud moment for the 49ers community.

I would like to once again congratulate Chancellor Gaber and recognize the tremendous contributions she has made to UNC Charlotte and the state of North Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO MARTIN LOUIS "MICK" GIVEN

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to the House the memory of Martin Louis "Mick" Given of Sidney, Ohio. A longtime business leader and philanthropist, Mick passed away on February 4, 2026, on his sixty-ninth birthday.

Mick was born in 1957 to the late Thomas and Marvalene Given. A lifelong resident of Sidney, he was a 1975 graduate of Sidney High School and a 1979 graduate of the University of Dayton. He then began a nearly five-decade career with Ferguson Construction Company, starting as an estimator/project manager. Tapped as president in 2001, he was named chief executive officer and board chairman in 2018.

Mick's standard of work excellence was a model to all. Under his leadership and drive, Ferguson grew to become the region's fourth-largest commercial construction firm, with more than 300 employees. Mick cared passionately about helping Shelby County to grow and develop. He served as board chairman of the Sidney-Shelby County Workforce Partnership, which encouraged young people in the region to pursue careers in the construction industry. His commitment to future generations earned him honors from the Sidney City School District, which inducted him into its Hall of Honor in 2017. He was also a longtime Associated Builders and Contractors board member.

Mick is survived by his wife, Vickie; their three children, Brent, Jackie, and Leslie; and seven grandchildren. On behalf of the people of Ohio's 4th Congressional District, and in conjunction with my Ohio colleagues MIKE CAREY and WARREN DAVIDSON, I offer Mick's family my condolences as they celebrate his life and his many contributions to the region. We can all be grateful that good men like Mick Given dedicate their lives to serving others, giving back so much more than they receive.

RECOGNIZING RUTSHELLE GUILLAUME IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rutshelle

Guillaume in honor of Women's History Month. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in her honor.

Whereas, Rutshelle Guillaume is a Haitian singer and songwriter whose powerful voice, captivating performances, and unique musical talent have made her a leading figure in Haitian music; and

Whereas, born and raised in Haiti in a musical family, Rutshelle cultivated her passion for singing at a young age, performing at local events and talent competitions, and developing the artistry that would define her career; and

Whereas, over the course of her career, Rutshelle has released multiple albums showcasing her distinctive style, upbeat energy, and inspiring messages, resonating with audiences across Haiti and internationally; and

Whereas, Rutshelle has earned a reputation as a dynamic performer, captivating audiences with her live performances and inspiring others through her dedication to her craft and her commitment to creating meaningful music; and

Whereas, beyond her musical achievements, Rutshelle is a passionate advocate for social causes, using her platform to raise awareness and make a positive impact in her community, both in Haiti and abroad; and

Whereas, her remarkable achievements have earned her numerous awards and accolades, including recognition as one of the top female artists in Haiti, while her humility, work ethic, and dedication continue to inspire fans and fellow artists alike; and therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, proudly recognize and honor Rutshelle Guillaume during Women's History Month for her exceptional talent, dedication, and contributions to music and the community, inspiring others through her example of artistry, perseverance, and leadership.

HONORING KENNETH "KEN" KELLY

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Kenneth "Ken" Kelly of San José, who passed away on August 7, 2025, at age 86. Ken Kelly served as a beloved volunteer and community leader in Silicon Valley. For decades, he devoted his time and talents to helping others. In schools, neighborhood groups, and environmental programs, he rolled up his sleeves and got to work.

Ken was born in Nebraska and raised in San Francisco. He graduated from UC Berkeley in 1961. He worked in retail management and later ran his own marketing business, but he left his deepest mark in the garden. In later years, Ken became a Master Composter and led Santa Clara County's Home Composting Education Program. He taught neighbors of all ages how to turn kitchen scraps into rich soil. Through hands-on workshops and the trees and plants he propagated and shared, Ken spread both seedlings and enthusiasm for environmental stewardship.

His daily work scratched an itch that Ken had for community service, but not nearly enough. For a duration of a couple of decades, nobody in San José volunteered in more