

all-white grand juries that followed refused to bring the killer to account. Rather than bend beneath that injustice, Mrs. Miller found strength. She remained a widow and single parent, and she answered grief with unyielding activism.

Her home became a sanctuary and a strategy center for the struggle for civil rights. She opened her doors for meetings after mass gatherings and voter registration drives, offering shelter to organizers and hope to neighbors. She endured threats—a cross burned on her front lawn—and she responded not with retreat but with resolve, calling neighbors to stand guard and protect her family. She taught her children, by deed and example, that dignity demands both courage and fortitude.

Mrs. Miller's activism extended into institutions long closed to people of color. When a school superintendent tried to intimidate her daughter Deborah, Grace Miller confronted him in his office—and from that stand she launched a campaign that culminated in her election to the Baker County School Board. For 36 years she served on that board, not for prestige, but to open doors for children, to insist on fairness, and to shepherd a community toward a better, more just future. Several of her daughters integrated local schools and endured jail and hardship for the cause. Mrs. Miller's quiet, fierce leadership made such sacrifices bearable and meaningful.

She worked to provide for her family, holding clerical jobs at Newton Manufacturing Company and the Jones Ecological Center at Ichauway, all while bearing the responsibilities of head of household. She celebrated every victory for her children: she watched with pride as her son rose to the rank of lieutenant in the Albany Police Department even while she continued to press for accountability and trust between law enforcement and the community.

Grace's life of service continued into her later years. She testified to the truth when her daughter Shirley—a national civil-rights figure—was wrongly accused in 2009, standing publicly for justice and for her family. She lived to see two roads in Baker County named in her honor—small, permanent signs of a life that rerouted the course of a county's conscience.

Her honors and recognitions could not encompass the full measure of her influence. Grace Miller leaves a legacy embodied in the lives she steadied, the children who learned to read and to hope in classrooms she fought to desegregate, and the generations who now pass safely through doors she helped open.

Mrs. Miller is survived by her six devoted children—Shirley Miller Sherrod; Nannie Mae Miller Jones; Sandra Miller Jones; Rubertha Miller Hall; Deborah Miller Walker; and Rev. Hosea Miller, Jr.—as well as 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. We remember, too, her late husband Hosea and her parents, Joe Nathan and Nannie Arnett Hall.

Mrs. Miller's life stands as a testament to moral courage: the courage to keep faith when institutions fail; the courage to raise children in the face of violence; the courage to turn a home into a headquarters for justice. She taught by example that one person's steadiness can alter the arc of a community. For her service—as a mother, as an activist, as a school board member, and as a keeper of conscience for Baker County—we offer our deepest gratitude.

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 Mrs. Grace Hall Miller, to celebrate a life spent on the side of justice, and to extend our condolences to her family. May her legacy continue to inspire those who work to make our Nation ever truer to its promise.

HONORING GYPSY GALLARDO

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to honor a captivating storyteller, entrepreneur and economic changemaker, Gypsy Gallardo. Ms. Gallardo devoted herself to leadership and advocacy for equitable economic, social, and political empowerment to benefit all Americans particularly Tampa Bay Area neighbors.

Gallardo persevered through family substance abuse that tragically claimed the life of her mother. Following her mother's passing, Gallardo moved in with her grandparents in South Florida, eventually settling with her dad in St. Petersburg, and attending Gibbs High School. Feeling like a fish out of water, Gallardo left St. Petersburg right before graduation to live in Ohio, ultimately to end up in Kentucky at 19, homeless, alone and pregnant.

Through resilience and determination, Gallardo forged a new path forward. At night, she worked at the Kentucky State University Admissions Office while taking classes. Gallardo graduated from Kentucky State University, earning a bachelor's degree in English and Philosophy. Continuing her education, Gallardo completed a master's degree in public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

In 1997, Gallardo once again returned to St. Petersburg, bringing her experience to the table as an asset. Her commitment to advancing Black communities has remained unwavering through her professional work and community leadership. In 2005, Gallardo founded *The Power Broker Magazine*, a publication that highlights opportunities and challenges in underserved communities. Gallardo's outlet provides a space for economic opportunity accessible to all, with a strong pulse on community activity. *Power Broker Magazine* is a force, reaching approximately 10,000 African American readers each month.

Beyond her magazine, Gallardo is a household name in St. Petersburg and across the Tampa Bay area. She has been an integral part of the revitalization of St. Petersburg's Black businesses and culture in the Deuces and throughout the city. In 2021, Gallardo led the City of St. Petersburg and a University of South Florida research team in a study of the relationship between racism and infrastructure inequities. As a staunch advocate for affordable housing and the preservation of Black culture and opportunity in St. Petersburg, Gallardo has worked to ensure our neighbors' pocketbooks are protected and that Black contractors are prioritized in projects such as Midtown's Tangerine Plaza, Sankofa, the Historic Gas Plant District, and the Deuces.

Gallardo's work reaches every corner of Tampa Bay communities. She serves as the CEO of Urban Market Analytics, chairs the NAACP Statewide Economic Development Committee, co-chairs the PACT countywide violence and education advocacy organization, and regularly organizes networking events for Black business owners and leaders. She has also led extensive voter registration and mobilization efforts within the African American community, using her platform to amplify voices both locally and across the region.

With a public servant's heart and a deep passion for progress, Gallardo credits her achievements and effective advocacy to her lived experiences. Through poverty and wealth, success and hardships, she never lost sight of the importance of a united community and collective humanity. Gallardo believes the Tampa Bay area is on a path to becoming a nationally influential African American region and reminds us to always work together, no matter where we come from or what we look like. Gallardo is a mother of four, including two nephews she helped raise, and remains deeply rooted in family and community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my St. Petersburg neighbors, I thank Gypsy Gallardo for her selfless work in our communities. Gallardo is a living testament to what you can do for your country and your neighbors. Through her leadership, perseverance, and commitment to justice and opportunity, Gypsy Gallardo is a powerful shining light every day in the Tampa Bay area.

RECOGNIZING JESSICA SCALISE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Scalise, Child Advocate and Victim Services Coordinator at You Thrive Children's Advocacy Center, for her extraordinary dedication to child abuse victims and their families. Through unwavering compassion and professionalism, Ms. Scalise ensures that children feel safe, heard, and supported during some of the most difficult moments of their lives. From the moment families enter the Center, she provides calm, steady guidance and helps young survivors navigate complex investigative and judicial processes with confidence and dignity. Using a trauma-informed approach, Jessica works closely with multidisciplinary partners to prioritize the emotional well-being of every child. She also attends court hearings and depositions to provide reassurance and stability, ensuring that children and caregivers never face these challenging experiences alone.

Her tireless advocacy, empathy, and steadfast commitment have made a meaningful difference in the lives of countless families. Through her service, she fosters healing, resilience, and hope.

For these reasons, I am proud to honor Jessica Scalise for her outstanding contributions to our community and recognize her as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF
THE TOWN OF RANDOLPH, NEW
YORK

HON. NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Town of Randolph in Cattaraugus County, New York, as it celebrates the 200th anniversary of its founding. Established on February 1, 1826, when the New York State Legislature divided the Town of Conewango, Randolph quickly grew from a small settlement of pioneering families into a strong and vibrant community in the Enchanted Mountains of Western New York. Early residents helped shape the town through hard work, civic participation, and a commitment to building roads, schools, and institutions that would serve future generations.

By 1830, Randolph had grown to more than one hundred households, reflecting the rapid development of Western New York following the completion of the Erie Canal. Over the next two centuries, Randolph continued to evolve while preserving the values of community spirit, local enterprise, and rural character that define it to this day.

Today, Randolph remains a proud small town with a thriving local business district, productive farms, manufacturing employers, and a strong educational presence through Randolph Central School. Its residents continue the tradition of public service and neighborly cooperation that began with the town's first meeting nearly two hundred years ago.

On behalf of the people of New York's 23rd Congressional District, I congratulate the residents of Randolph on this remarkable bicentennial milestone and extend my best wishes for continued prosperity and success in the years ahead.

HONORING PAUL MARCHAND AND
HIS WORK ON BEHALF OF AMER-
ICANS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Paul Marchand. With World Down Syndrome Day approaching this Saturday, this seemed an appropriate time to honor a titan in the national disability rights and disability policy community whose work transformed the lives of millions of people with disabilities and their families.

I have long admired him and his profound influence across the disability advocacy community—an arena in which I, too, have had the honor to work alongside countless families, advocates, and organizations. Over more than four decades, Paul Marchand helped shape the very foundation of modern federal disability policy.

Before coming to Washington, Paul served as a special education teacher and as a leader in Rhode Island's developmental disability community—bringing a deep understanding of families, educators, and individuals on the ground to his national work.

Paul joined The Arc of the United States' Public Policy Office in 1973 and became its Director in 1975. At a time when the voices of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities were too often ignored, he fought to ensure that those voices were heard within the halls of Congress and across the federal government. He also helped found what became the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities, and he served as its Chair from 1975 through 2000. During his tenure, the coalition grew from fewer than a dozen organizations to a coalition of more than hundred disability organizations nationwide. The consummate consensus-builder, Paul united a diverse community around common goals of civil rights, inclusion, and opportunity.

Paul was deeply involved in the passage of some of the most consequential pieces of disability-rights legislation in our Nation's history. That includes early victories in the movement, including the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act in 1980, and Child Abuse Treatment Amendments of 1984. He played a leading role in securing the enactment of each of these laws.

Crucially, he was a champion for the Americans with Disabilities Act, which I was proud to sponsor in the House alongside my friend Tony Coelho. That historic bill didn't just change the law; it changed hearts and minds across America. It changed how Americans perceive and treat the disability community. Paul helped make it happen. He did the same with the ADA Amendments Act in 2008. Additionally, he helped secure nine reauthorizations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, helping expand early intervention services, preschool programs, family supports, and legal protections for children with disabilities and their families. He was equally influential in strengthening employment opportunities and protections through repeated reauthorizations of the Rehabilitation Act, including the creation of supported employment, and in embedding disability provisions into broader workforce and job training legislation.

In addition to his legislative work, Paul served in leadership roles with the Center on Effective Government, SourceAmerica, and the American Association of People with Disabilities, and he was appointed by the Clinton Administration to the National Commission on Childhood Disability.

Paul retired in 2011 believing that the disability movement stood on the threshold of full inclusion. His optimism was rooted not in rhetoric but in decades of hard-earned progress shaped by his integrity, perseverance, and unwavering belief in the worth of every person. While we continue to work toward that goal, we get closer to its fulfillment seemingly every day.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is more just, more accessible, and more compassionate because of Paul Marchand's life of service. I am honored to recognize his remarkable legacy and to extend the gratitude of this House to a man who devoted his career to expanding opportunity and protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities. I ask all my colleagues to join me in thanking him.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
CYNTHIA NUNES COLBERT

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary service of Cynthia Nunes Colbert, President and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, as she prepares to retire after more than a decade of leadership.

For nearly thirteen years, Ms. Colbert has been a tireless advocate for those most in need. Under her leadership, Catholic Charities has served as a lifeline for families across the Houston region, offering not just assistance, but hope, stability, and dignity. Her work has always been grounded in a deep sense of faith and a belief in the worth of every person she served.

Her tenure was defined by steady leadership during some of the most difficult moments our community has faced. In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, she led rapid efforts to deliver food, supplies, and financial assistance to families rebuilding their lives. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she guided the organization in delivering critical support to families facing economic hardship, ensuring help reached those who needed it most.

Ms. Colbert also looked to the future, helping launch the Family Opportunity Center in the Eastex-Jensen community, an investment that will continue to support families on their path to self-sufficiency for years to come.

Throughout her career, she has led with compassion, strength, and grace. Even in the face of profound personal loss, she continued to lead with clarity and purpose, never losing sight of her mission to serve others.

Her impact will be felt for generations in the families she helped and the communities she strengthened.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in gratitude for Cynthia Nunes Colbert's service to the people of Houston, and I wish her continued blessings in this next chapter.

COMMEMORATING STARLING
SCHOOL AND THE LEADERSHIP
OF CAROLYN CLOUD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to commemorate Starling School, located in the Childs Park neighborhood of St. Petersburg, and the leadership of Carolyn Cloud as a bedrock educational institution in St. Petersburg. Founded in 1974 by Viola and Jimmy Starling, Starling School has remained steadfast in its commitment to embracing and nurturing local youth.

Jimmy Starling was born and raised in Cuthbert, Georgia and Viola Starling was born and raised in Springvale, Georgia. Upon meeting and embracing their shared passion for education, they moved to Florida to make that dream a reality. Viola Starling's lifelong passion for early childhood education shaped the