

colleague to all, Whitney's service to the people of Iowa reflects the character and work ethic that define Team Nunn. I am grateful for her contributions and confident she will continue to lead and succeed in the next chapter of her career.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. Whitney Hutson for her contributions to Iowa's 3rd Congressional District and wish her continued success in all that lies ahead.

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RECOGNIZING DR. MARY OKADA

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mary Okada as she concludes a remarkable chapter of service as President of Guam Community College, after many years dedicated to education, workforce development, and the people of Guam.

Dr. Okada's leadership at Guam Community College has been historic. She became the first woman to lead the institution and went on to serve longer than any president before her. That continuity mattered. It provided stability, direction, and trust at a time when higher education was facing rapid change and increasing demands.

Long before becoming president, Dr. Okada served Guam Community College in key financial and administrative roles. She also brought experience from the Guam Department of Education.

Because of that background, she understood the institution not only from the classroom level, but from the operational side—how to manage resources, plan responsibly, and make decisions that would stand the test of time.

Under her leadership, Guam Community College strengthened its role as Guam's primary engine for workforce training and career education. Programs expanded to meet the real needs of the island, preparing students for skilled trades, healthcare, public service, and emerging technical fields. These were not abstract academic offerings; they were pathways to stable jobs and stronger families.

Dr. Okada placed a strong emphasis on financial responsibility and accountability. Through careful planning and disciplined management, Guam Community College maintained long-term fiscal stability and earned consistent confidence from auditors, policymakers, and the broader community. That kind of stewardship is not always visible, but it is essential to an institution's success.

She also understood that education cannot exist in isolation. During her tenure, Guam Community College strengthened partnerships with government agencies, private employers, and regional organizations to ensure that training programs aligned with workforce demand. As a result, students left GCC better prepared to step directly into the workforce and contribute to Guam's economy.

Dr. Okada served as a respected voice for Guam and the Pacific in national and regional education discussions. She represented the interests of island communities in conversations about access, opportunity, and workforce development, ensuring that Guam was not overlooked in broader policy discussions.

Her leadership extended beyond a single campus. She served on accreditation bodies, education councils, and advisory boards, helping shape policies and standards that affect students well beyond Guam. Through this work, she elevated career and technical education and reinforced its importance as a respected and viable pathway.

Those who worked with Dr. Okada describe her as thoughtful, steady, and deeply committed to students. She led with consistency and care, focused not on short-term recognition, but on building systems that would continue to serve students long after her tenure.

As she steps away from her role at Guam Community College, her impact is evident in the thousands of students whose lives were shaped by the education and training they received. Her legacy is reflected not only in programs and facilities, but in opportunity created and futures strengthened.

Mr. Speaker, Guam Community College plays a vital role in our island's success, and Dr. Okada's leadership helped ensure that a role was carried out with purpose, responsibility, and vision. I thank Dr. Okada, for her years of service and for the lasting contributions she has made to Guam and its people—past, present, and future.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAXINE DEXTER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, there was a shooting in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 12, H.R. 5184.

HONORING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS VETERAN AND TULLYTOWN FIREFIGHTER MATTHEW "MATT" WALLACE HAINES

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**HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Matthew "Matt" Wallace Haines, a man whose journey through this world was defined not by ease, but by extraordinary service, resilience, and a deep devotion to others.

Born Michael Stephan LaVallee on May 13, 1971, in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Matt passed away on December 19, 2025, at the age of 54. His early life was marked by challenges that demanded uncommon strength and perseverance. Rather than allowing those hardships to define him, Matt transformed them into a source of empathy, grit, and compassion. These are qualities that he carried with him to shape the man he became, the way he lived, the way he served, and the lives he touched.

Matt was a proud United States Marine and a volunteer firefighter for more than 20 years, serving with distinction as a Captain with the Tullytown Fire Company, Station 33. The residents of Tullytown knew that when the sirens

sounded, someone who genuinely cared was on the way. In dangerous situations which others would run from, Matt would courageously and instinctively run towards the emergency to aid and assistance. Service was not something Matt took lightly nor was it just a word to him. It was the heartbeat of who he was. His leadership, courage, and quiet dependency set a standard for what it truly means to live a life of civic duty.

Above all, Matt Haines was a family man. He leaves behind those who loved him, including his wife, Alyssa Renee (Grayson) Haines; his sons, Casey Ryan Haines and Jonathan Tomczyk; his daughter, Audrey Lightner, and her wife, Corine Lightner; his grandchildren, Alyria Dennis, Ayden Lightner, and Evan McFarland; his beloved mother and father, Jane LaVallee and Glen Papin, and his younger brothers, Stacey Schinold and Shelby Schinold. He is also remembered fondly by the many friends who became family over the course of his life.

Mr. Haines was also deeply loved by Alyssa's family, whom he embraced as his own. He is remembered by Christine (Albertuzzi) Grayson, whom he often said was the first true mother he had ever known; Lon Grayson, whom he proudly called "Dad"; his wife, Judy (Sindelar) Grayson; Jared Grayson; Melody Salvero Grayson; and his nieces, Chelsea and Taylor Grayson.

Mr. Speaker, we also pause with solemn reverence to remember that Matt was preceded in death by his beloved son, Matthew Tyler Haines. This heartbreak loss forever shaped his life, yet even in grief he chose love, carrying his son's memory in every step he took.

Matt Haines will be remembered as someone who lived boldly and authentically. His friends and family will remember him as the "watch this" kind of guy. Matt was someone who made people laugh, pushed limits, and brought energy and humor into every room he entered. His larger-than-life personality, fearless spirit, and sharp sense of humor left an indelible mark on all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Matthew Wallace Haines. He was a United States Marine, a Fire Captain with Tullytown Fire Company Station 33, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a son, a brother, and a friend. We recognize a life that burned brightly in service, in love, and in courage. May his legacy endure, and may he now rest in eternal peace.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT

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**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would provide for coverage of employees of the local D.C. courts and the D.C. Public Defender Service (PDS) under the D.C. Human Rights Act of 1977 (DCHRA). In 2022, the D.C. Court of Appeals

held that the DCHRA, which protects employees of the D.C. government and private employers from discrimination, is inapplicable to employees of the local D.C. courts. The court has not ruled on the applicability of the DCHRA to PDS employees.

The local D.C. courts and PDS are unique entities, and they sometimes fall through the regulatory cracks. They are neither federal nor D.C. government entities, though both were created and are funded by Congress, and their employees are treated as federal employees for some employee benefits. This bill would ensure that their employees have comprehensive protections from and remedies for employment discrimination.

While employees of the local D.C. courts and PDS are protected by federal anti-discrimination laws, the DCHRA provides much broader protections and remedies for employees than federal anti-discrimination laws.

While the D.C. Council may have the authority to enact this bill itself, only Congress has the clear authority to do so, given the express limitation in the D.C. Home Rule Act on the Council's authority to legislate on matters affecting the operations of the local D.C. courts, and given that Congress has generally served as the legislative body for PDS matters.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL DELUG

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Samuel Delug, a devoted community leader, philanthropist, accomplished attorney, and steadfast advocate for the Jewish people and the State of Israel. Sam Delug's passing is a profound loss to his family, friends, and the many organizations and causes strengthened by his generosity, warmth, and unwavering commitment.

A longtime attorney trained at the UCLA School of Law, Sam brought to his professional and civic life the values of integrity, rigor, and service. Born in Melbourne to parents who were fervent Zionists, his family history was deeply intertwined with the founding and survival of the State of Israel. Sam ultimately made his home in Los Angeles at a young age, where he built a life defined by community engagement and principled advocacy.

For decades, Sam Delug was deeply engaged in Jewish communal life and in support of Israel. He traveled to Israel frequently, participated in solidarity missions, and worked tirelessly to strengthen pro-Israel civic and political engagement. His involvement was never passive. Sam opened his home to host gatherings, brought new voices into the fold, and gave generously his time and resources to causes he believed in.

Sam was also a committed board member and supporter of Beit T'Shuvah, a nonprofit addiction treatment center in Los Angeles dedicated to healing broken souls and saving lives through compassionate, community-based care. His advocacy for dignity, recovery, and second chances made a lasting impact, in 2018, he was honored at the organi-

zation's gala in recognition of his unwavering belief in its mission.

Those who knew Sam will remember not only his dedication, but also his humor, his storytelling, and his genuine ability to forge deep and lasting friendships. He brought warmth and joy wherever he went and was known for his generosity, hospitality, and sincere care for others.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Sam Delug as a man whose commitment to community, faith, and fellowship exemplified the very best of civic and charitable engagement. We extend our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and all who mourn his loss, especially his beloved children, Aaron, Asher, and Ester, and his grandchildren. May his memory be a blessing, and may his example continue to inspire them, and all of us, to carry forward the causes he so dearly loved.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to an illness in my family, I missed the following Roll Call votes on January 9, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 12.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SENATOR CARMEN A. KASPERBAUER

**HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of Carmen Artero Kasperbauer, whose life reflected a deep and enduring commitment to service and community.

Born in 1935, Carmen grew up during one of the most difficult periods in Guam's history, the Japanese occupation of World War II. As a child, she witnessed hardship, fear, and sacrifice that shaped her understanding of responsibility and resilience at an early age.

Like many families on Guam, hers faced extraordinary risk during the occupation. Their decision to help protect U.S. Navy radioman George Tweed was an act of quiet courage, one that reflected the loyalty of the CHamoru people during a time when such choices carried severe consequences.

These experiences were not abstract history for Carmen; they were formative moments that guided her life's work. She chose a path of service as a registered nurse, dedicating herself to the care of others and to strengthening her community through compassion. For her, service was not simply just a career. It reflected her belief that service begins with showing up for people when they are most vulnerable.

Her commitment to public service did not stop there. In 1979, she was elected to the Guam Legislature, where she served as a senator for two terms. At a time when women

were still fighting for equal footing in political leadership, Carmen Kasperbauer brought both strength and humility to the legislative process. She was known not for grandstanding, but for her steadiness, her preparation, and her deep concern for the people she represented. As a senator, she believed that public service meant listening first and putting people ahead of politics.

She did her work carefully, asked thoughtful questions, and focused on what would truly help the people of Guam.

She carried into public office the same values she lived by every day—respect for others, responsibility to community, and a strong sense of duty. These values guided her decisions, whether she was serving in the Legislature, working as a nurse, or helping her neighbors. Those who knew her remember her as the person who always showed up, did the work, and never sought attention.

Beyond her formal roles, Carmen remained an active voice in Guam's community life. In later years, she shared her firsthand experiences of the war, ensuring that the sacrifices of Guam's people were not forgotten, minimized, or rewritten. Her testimony helped remind future generations that Guam's history is inseparable from America's, and that our island's people paid a very real price for freedom.

Carmen Kasperbauer passed away on Christmas Eve at the age of 90. Her life spanned generations of change on Guam, from war and recovery to a steady life of service rooted in community. Through it all, she embodied resilience, service, and quiet patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, Guam is a small island, but its contributions to this Nation are immense. Her life is a powerful example of that truth. Guam has lost a matriarch, but her legacy of service lives on through her husband, Dr. Larry Kasperbauer, and her children. On behalf of a grateful island, a very big thanks to the Senator. She will be deeply missed.

#### HONORING JAMES BAXTER HUNT, JR.

**HON. DONALD G. DAVIS**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, James Baxter Hunt, Jr., a farm-boy who became North Carolina's longest-serving governor, died on December 18, 2025. He was 88. Governor Hunt died at home on his Wilson County farm, where he grew up and still lived with his wife of 67 years, Carolyn Joyce Leonard Hunt.

He was born in Greensboro on May 16, 1937, the son of James B. Hunt, Sr., a farmer and soil conservationist, and Elsie Brame Hunt, a beloved English teacher. He grew up on his family's dairy farm in Wilson and graduated from Rock Ridge High School. "Jimmy" met Carolyn as a senior in high school at a National Grange Youth Convention in Ohio. When they met, Carolyn was living on her family's cattle farm in Mingo, Iowa. Jimmy would frequently hitchhike for 36 hours to see Carolyn during his school breaks. Their courtship, marriage, and long life together was a true partnership.