

institution's mission. Prior to establishing the school, Mrs. Starling worked in childcare throughout Pinellas County, including at Jordan Park, in Dunedin, and alongside her cousin, Fred Williams, at a local daycare. Determined to create a center of her own, she pursued her dream despite repeated financial barriers, ultimately securing a loan from a banker at the St. Petersburg Bank in downtown St. Petersburg in 1974. This achievement marked the beginning of a service-based institution dedicated to expanding educational access and empowering generations of families.

From its earliest days, Starling School has remained deeply rooted in family and legacy. Mrs. Starling not only laid the foundation of the school's legacy but envisioned its future well beyond her lifetime. The Starling family home, located adjacent to the original center in Childs Park, was intentionally incorporated into the school's design and later transformed into classrooms that now house the school's Voluntary Prekindergarten program. Each year, the center serves up to about 80 young learners through its early childhood education programs. Today, members of the second and third generations of the Starling family continue to operate and care for the center, preserving the founding values that have guided the institution for more than five decades.

Passing the torch to their daughter, Carolyn Cloud, has continued to preserve and advance her parents' vision. Under Ms. Cloud's leadership, Starling School has educated generations of students, many of whom have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, and community leaders. She has witnessed former students return to support the center through donations, mentorship, and service, while parents who were once students now entrust their own children to the school. In February 2024, Mrs. Cloud was honored by the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County in recognition of her extraordinary 50 years of dedication to education, noting her remarkable impact on more than 26,000 children between ages 2–5. The school was also named a 2022–2023 National Beta School of Merit in recognition of its commitment to academic excellence. This continuity reflects a living legacy of trust, care, and community investment.

Starling School emphasizes character, compassion, and responsibility alongside education. The center continues to reflect the foundational values instilled by the Starling family, "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Through Cloud's leadership, the school remains a nurturing environment where children are valued, supported, and inspired to give back to the community that first invested in them.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Starling School for more than half a century of extraordinary service to St. Petersburg and to commend Carolyn Cloud for her unwavering dedication to preserving and advancing her family's vision. Through her stewardship, the legacy established by Viola and Jimmy Starling continues to uplift families, strengthen communities, and expand opportunity for generations to come. Their work reminds us that when a community invests in its children, it invests in its future. On behalf of my constituents, I congratulate Starling School on its 52nd anniversary and extend my sincere wishes for continued success and impact for many decades to come.

RECOGNIZING KAITLYN BERLETH

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of my constituents, Kaitlyn Berleth, Therapist and Lead Clinician at You Thrive Children's Advocacy Center, for her exceptional service to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Ms. Berleth has made a profound and lasting impact on the lives of child abuse victims through compassionate, skilled, and trauma-informed therapeutic care. In her role, she provides ongoing trauma therapy while also delivering critical crisis intervention services—offering immediate emotional support and stabilization to children and families during some of the most difficult moments they will ever face. Her calm presence, clinical expertise, and unwavering professionalism create a safe and steady environment in times of acute distress.

Kaitlyn approaches each child with patience, empathy, and clinical excellence, meeting them where they are emotionally and developmentally. By utilizing evidence-based trauma therapy techniques, she helps children build healthy coping skills, emotional regulation, and resilience—tools that positively shape their lives far beyond the therapy room. In addition to serving children, Ms. Berleth provides therapeutic support to adult survivors of sexual abuse. She fosters an empowering and respectful space where individuals can process trauma, reclaim their sense of agency, and move toward long-term healing. She also offers vital guidance and reassurance to caregivers, helping families navigate the complex journey of recovery. Families consistently express gratitude for her compassion, professionalism, and steadfast commitment.

Mr. Speaker, the strength of our Nation is reflected in professionals who dedicate their lives to serving others with integrity and selflessness. Kaitlyn Berleth embodies the mission of You Thrive Children's Advocacy Center and the highest ideals of community service. It is clear that her work has made an extraordinary and deeply positive difference in countless lives. For these reasons, I am proud to recognize Kaitlyn Berleth as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District and commend her for her outstanding service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE LATIMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 94.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRAMENTO
FOOD BANK & FAMILY SERVICES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services as it celebrates 50 years of distinguished service to the Sacramento region.

For five decades, the Sacramento Food Bank has strengthened our community through advocacy and an unwavering commitment to those in need. That legacy is built on the dedication of their leadership, board, and staff; people who have given their time, their creativity, and their heart to this work.

Guided by a mission to nourish our community members, the Sacramento Food Bank has worked tirelessly to fight poverty and hunger in Sacramento County by removing barriers for families and individuals. This organization has ensured that no child goes hungry, struggling families get back on their feet, seniors are nourished, and immigrants and refugees make Sacramento home, setting up those in need for self-sufficiency and financial independence.

Through their 112 partner agencies, the Sacramento Food Bank delivers accessible programs, including neighborhood distributions, CalFresh outreach, Food for Seniors, diaper distribution, legal services, SMUD Energy Help, and unwavering advocacy in addressing root causes of food insecurity and poverty. Their work has advanced policy reforms and strengthened programs at the local, state and national levels.

This milestone honors the resilience of those in need, the commitment of staff and volunteers, and the partnerships that help them meet demands.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the Sacramento Food bank's 50 years of compassion and advocacy for Sacramento.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. ANDREW BILLINGSLEY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 100th birthday of Dr. Andrew Billingsley. As the representative of Virginia's 3rd Congressional District, I have the honor of representing Dr. Billingsley's alma mater, Hampton University, known in his time as the Hampton Institute. After serving in the Army during World War II, Dr. Billingsley began his academic journey at Hampton where he served on student council. Ultimately, he transferred to Grinnell College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science.

He went on to earn master's degrees in social services and sociology from Boston University and the University of Michigan, respectively, and a doctoral degree in social policy and research from Brandeis University in 1964. Dr. Billingsley then brought his expertise to higher education, serving at the University

of California, Berkeley, and Howard University, and later as the eighth president of Morgan State University. Over the course of his distinguished career, he authored and co-authored numerous books, research papers, and academic publications. Even after retirement, he continued to mentor and teach, earning many awards and honors in recognition of his contributions.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Billingsley has dedicated his life's work as a sociologist to advocating for Black families. On the occasion of his 100th birthday, it is only fitting that we celebrate his extraordinary legacy and years of service.

COMMEMORATING THE JOHNSON
FAMILY AND THE WEEKLY
CHALLENGER

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 the Johnson family and The Weekly Challenger, an unwavering pillar of journalism that has kept our Tampa Bay area neighbors connected with uplifting local stories. Their dedication to preserving the Black community shapes a legacy for generations to come.

The Weekly Challenger origin story starts with Mr. Cleveland Johnson, Jr. who was born in Thomasville, Georgia, but always considered himself a St. Petersburg native after his family moved to the area in the early 1930s. He attended Davis Elementary and Gibbs High School, was later drafted into the U.S. Army, and then met and married his wife, Ethel, in 1958. In the early years of their marriage, Mr. Johnson searched for his calling and held down many jobs to provide for his growing family. He found his purpose through friend and mentor, M.C. Fountain, who owned Fountain Printers on 16th Street South. Mr. Johnson started selling advertisements for Fountain's Weekly Advertiser in 1964.

By 1967, The Weekly Challenger was founded, and Mr. Johnson led with the intent to reshape the way journalism was circulated in St. Petersburg by creating a platform to highlight and uplift the Black community. "If you want to read about Black people doing something bad, pick up the St. Pete Times, but if you want to read about Black people doing something positive, pick up a Challenger." The Weekly Challenger served not only as a news source but also as a vital historical record, sharing stories often overlooked by mainstream newspapers. The Johnsons were quite a team, raised three children, while Ethel worked various jobs and assisted Mr. Johnson with The Weekly Challenger.

Under Mr. Johnson's leadership, The Weekly Challenger grew from a modest publication into a robust community newspaper. The pages expanded to include color photography, full-page advertisements, and an array of stories reflecting the local Black community. With its continued success, demand led the newspaper to expand its distribution from St. Petersburg to Tampa, Clearwater, and other surrounding areas. It is evident that this success is rooted in the Johnson family's commitment and in The Weekly Challenger's praise and celebration of the local community.

Mr. Johnson passed away on July 29, 2001, and his family stepped in to continue commemorating Black history and culture in Pinellas County. The Johnsons left a cherished memory of compassion, community empowerment, and entrepreneurship rooted in the heart of St. Petersburg.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the outstanding leadership and service for six decades that The Weekly Challenger and the Johnson family have shown to the community. The Weekly Challenger remains a cornerstone of the community and will carry forward with the narrative of "making history together."

RECOGNIZING CARL AND CARLA
HABERLAND

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two extraordinary members of our community, Carl and Carla Haberland, whose unwavering commitment to volunteerism has left a lasting imprint on Brooksville Main Street and the families we serve. In every thriving downtown, there are individuals who quietly and consistently step forward to do the work that makes celebration and community possible. Carl and Carla Haberland are those individuals for Brooksville. Their dedication goes far beyond attendance at events they invest their time, energy, and heart into ensuring our community traditions not only continue, but flourish. What truly sets Carl and Carla apart is their spirit of service, especially evident during the holiday season. Each year, as Brooksville transforms into a winter wonderland, their fingerprints are on every detail. From helping assemble the towering 40-foot Christmas tree to assisting with the installation of large rooftop decorations, they embrace the physically demanding work that brings magic to our downtown. These efforts are no small undertaking. They require long hours, heavy lifting, climbing heights, and meticulous coordination. Yet Carl and Carla approach every task with enthusiasm and purpose, working side-by-side with fellow volunteers simply because they care deeply about the joy these decorations bring to families throughout our community.

Their service is not motivated by recognition or applause. It is driven by love for their town and a desire to create cherished memories for children and adults alike. Because of their dedication, generations of families have experienced the wonder of a beautifully decorated downtown during the most meaningful time of the year. Carl and Carla Haberland exemplify what it means to be true community builders. They remind us that the strength of a town lies not only in its buildings and businesses, but in the generosity and teamwork of the people who call it home. Brooksville is brighter—quite literally—because of their efforts.

It is my privilege to honor Carl and Carla Haberland for their extraordinary volunteerism and their steadfast commitment to bringing joy and unity to our community and recognize them as 2026 Heroes Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING FRAN WEISBERG

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Women's History Month to recognize a remarkable and impactful leader from Rochester, New York: Fran Weisberg.

Throughout her distinguished career, Fran has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to public service, dedicating her professional life to addressing some of our most pressing challenges, including poverty, public health, and the evolving needs of nonprofit organizations. Her leadership has strengthened institutions and improved the lives of countless individuals and families across the Greater Rochester region.

Fran served with distinction as President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Greater Rochester, where she led the organization to unprecedented success, including record-breaking fundraising campaigns in support of critical community programs. Prior to her tenure at United Way, she served as Executive Director for the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency, fostering meaningful collaboration among healthcare providers, businesses, and community leaders to advance regional health outcomes. She also led Lifespan of Greater Rochester for a decade, transforming it into a robust organization dedicated to serving older adults and their caregivers. Through these roles, she has touched countless lives and made profound impacts on members of our community.

In addition to her remarkable professional accomplishments, Fran has made lasting contributions to the civic and political fabric of our region. She has served as Chair of the Monroe County Democratic Committee, and played a pivotal role in managing one of the most notable congressional campaigns in our area as Campaign Manager for the late Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and deep appreciation that I recognize my dear friend, Fran Weisberg, for her exceptional career and enduring contributions to the Rochester community. As we celebrate Women's History Month, it is only fitting that we recognize extraordinary local women who have gone above and beyond to better our community. Fran's legacy of leadership, compassion, and service continues to inspire us all, and her work will continue to benefit our region for years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE CAREY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes in order to attend the dignified transfer of six fallen U.S. servicemembers.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 92; YEA on Roll Call No. 93; YEA on Roll Call No. 94; and YEA on Roll Call No. 95.