

The Brain Awareness Campaign is a worldwide celebration of the brain that brings together scientists, families, schools, and communities. Brain Awareness Week is the culmination of these efforts and is celebrated throughout the United States and in many parts of the world.

This global celebration, launched by The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives in 1996, and supported by partners like the Society for Neuroscience, presents an opportunity to bring attention to the significant advances in brain science and advocate for science funding. Brain Awareness Week provides opportunities to learn more about the brain and educate the public on the importance of continued research.

As co-chair of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus, I am proud of the crucial neuroscience work being conducted in the United States, including in my district at the University of California, Davis. Last year, scientists at U.C. Davis harnessed the power of machine learning, a branch of artificial intelligence, to track anxiety-related behaviors. Their findings suggest a strong connection between early-life nervousness and the eventual development of anxiety and depressive disorders. Anxiety disorders, the most prevalent mental illnesses in the United States, impact nearly 20 percent of the population, and disproportionately affect women. Researchers believe this research could pave the way for preventing these disorders before they fully develop.

I am also proud to have authored the Mental Health Research Accelerator Act, which promotes public private partnerships to invest in further mental health research. The bill provides \$10 billion in allocable tax credits over a six-year period, which are available to nonprofits, state and local agencies, and private companies who collaborate on neurological research.

It is essential that we keep supporting neuroscience research to enable world-class researchers to continue their vital work on a wide range of conditions, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, autism spectrum disorders, depression, and addiction. Events like Brain Awareness Week help every American understand how important this research is. Please join me in recognizing Brain Awareness Week and the crucial work of neuroscientists across the globe.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSH BRECHEEN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting due to an unforeseen travel complication. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 88; NAY on Roll Call No. 89; YEA on Roll Call No. 90; and YEA on Roll Call No. 91.

CONGRATULATING MRS. SHERRI STULL ON HER RETIREMENT FROM COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate and recognize Mrs. Sherri Stull on her retirement after 19 years with Cocalico School District.

Mrs. Sherri Stull acted as Business Manager for Cocalico School District, which serves almost 3,000 students in northern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Her tenure from 2007 to 2026 overlapped with many changes to the school district, including renovations to the middle school and elementary schools, the installation of state-of-the-art sports fields, and various other projects that improved the district.

In addition to her role as Business Manager, Mrs. Stull served as a Pennsylvania Certified School Business Official, a Pennsylvania Association of School Officials member, a Primary Board Representative for the Lancaster County Tax Collection Bureau, a Tax Appeal Board Alternate Board Member, a trustee for the Cocalico Education Foundation, and the secretary for the Cocalico Board of School.

Mrs. Stull has left an enormous impact on Cocalico School District. I congratulate Mrs. Sherri Stull on her well-deserved retirement, and I wish her the best wherever her future takes her.

HONORING THE FLORIDA SENTINEL BULLETIN AND THE ANDREWS FAMILY

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 the Andrews family and the Florida Sentinel Bulletin, the long running African American-led newspaper based in Tampa, known for its deep roots in the community and its role as a vital source of news, culture, and advocacy. The Sentinel Bulletin's founding, legacy, and enduring impact embody the very spirit of the Black press in America.

On December 1, 1945, Cyril Blythe Andrews resurrected the Florida Sentinel on historic Central Avenue in Tampa, Florida, at a time when African Americans were largely excluded from fair and accurate representation in the media. Years earlier, the original Florida Sentinel had been founded in 1919 by Gen. William W. Andrews but was later forced to close during the Great Depression. Following in his father's footsteps, C. Blythe Andrews understood that information was power and that an informed community is a community prepared to demand justice and opportunity.

A scholar, athlete, businessman, and community leader, Mr. Andrews built more than a newspaper. Through his leadership in business development, housing initiatives, and civic institutions, he expanded economic opportunity for Black families across Florida.

Under his direction, the Sentinel printed its own editions, developed statewide distribution networks, and became a trusted voice for African Americans navigating segregation and systemic inequality.

In 1959, C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. expanded the publication, transforming it into the Florida Sentinel Bulletin and ushering in a new era of growth and modernization. A Boston University graduate with a master's degree in journalism, he strengthened the paper's editorial voice during the Civil Rights Era and the ongoing struggle for equal opportunity. Under his leadership, the Sentinel Bulletin installed modern printing presses, expanded circulation, and became one of the few Black owned newspapers in the Nation with full in house production capabilities. Beyond journalism, C. Blythe Andrews, Jr. served on numerous civic boards and advisory councils, ensuring that the concerns of Tampa's African American community were represented at every level. The Sentinel Bulletin was never simply a publication—it was a platform for advocacy, accountability, and advancement.

The history of the Florida Sentinel Bulletin would not be complete without acknowledging other remarkable individuals who contributed to its legacy. Mrs. Gwendolyn Hayes has devoted 57 years to the Sentinel Bulletin, beginning as a proofreader in 1968 and rising through roles as crime reporter, typesetter, city editor, and editor. Her dedication ensured that the Sentinel maintained its standard of excellence and trained future journalists in every facet of the business. Mrs. Betty Dawkins has served the paper for 49 years, beginning as a proofreader and ultimately becoming advertising director. Through her leadership, the Sentinel strengthened relationships with local businesses and maintained the economic foundation necessary to continue publishing. Her work exemplifies the behind the scenes commitment required to sustain a Black owned newspaper for decades.

The Florida Sentinel Bulletin has a unique and credible legacy that has been stewarded by generations of the Andrews family. Today, siblings C. Blythe "Drew" Andrews, III and Kay Andrews oversee the Sentinel Bulletin's continued service to the community. Beginning her work at the paper as a teenager, Ms. Andrews rose through the ranks to become publisher in 1996, ensuring that the Sentinel Bulletin remains responsive to the evolving needs of the community while honoring its historic mission.

This past December, the Florida Sentinel Bulletin celebrated its 80th anniversary. For eight decades, the Sentinel has chronicled the triumphs and trials of Tampa's African American community. It has informed voters, exposed injustice, celebrated achievement, and preserved stories that might otherwise have gone untold. During this Black History Month, we honor this institution as a living testament to truth, entrepreneurship, and the unyielding pursuit of equality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Florida Sentinel Bulletin and the Andrews family for their founding vision, their generational leadership, and their immeasurable impact on Tampa Bay and the State of Florida. Its pages reflect not only history, but the heartbeat of a strong and vocal community.

RECOGNIZING OTIS GREENE, III

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Otis Greene, III, whose leadership and selfless service made a meaningful difference in our community in the aftermath of Hurricane Milton. During a time of uncertainty and hardship, Mr. Greene stepped forward without hesitation. He devoted countless hours to providing direct assistance to neighbors and flood victims, ensuring that families in the Ridge Manor community did not face recovery alone. Beyond hands-on support, he played a pivotal role in coordinating the collection and distribution of emergency supplies, meals, and donated services to those in urgent need. Mr. Greene also served as a strong and effective advocate for bringing government and non-profit resources into the community, helping connect residents with critical recovery assistance. His ability to mobilize support and unite partners reflects both strong leadership and deep compassion for his neighbors.

In moments of crisis, true character is revealed. Otis Greene, III demonstrated resilience, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to serving others. His actions strengthened Ridge Manor and exemplified the very best of community spirit.

It is clear that Mr. Greene has made a profoundly positive impact, and I am deeply grateful for his service. May we all strive to serve our communities with the same dedication and humility.

It is my honor to recognize Otis Greene, III as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MEMORIAL EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2196, to extend and authorize the commemorative work to complete the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial, and urge the House to pass this bill.

The authorization for work on the memorial expired in November of 2025, and at no cost to the taxpayer, this bill simply allows the Foundation to continue their donations and work on the memorial in Washington.

Each year across our Nation, the 850,000 men and women of EMS answer more than 30 million calls to serve 22 million patients at a moment's notice. EMS is one of the first lines of defense in the prevention and mitigation of risk from all sorts of accidents, attacks, or natural disasters.

In my home state of North Carolina, our EMS serves a vital purpose when hurricanes hit, and most recently, Hurricane Helene devastated the western part of the state. EMS workers were risking their lives to aid their communities, keep people alive, transport

friends and neighbors to safer locations and secure facilities to be treated.

In fact, statistics show EMS providers die in the line of duty at a rate more than twice the national average for many other careers and endure an injury rate of nearly 100 percent. Without the sacrifice of EMS workers, our communities would be much less safe.

It is time to recognize the efforts of these unsung heroes and memorialize the ultimate sacrifice made by more than 600 members of the Nation's EMS and their loved ones.

The original bill was passed in 2018, and I look forward to seeing the work continue so that we can have a memorial in D.C. where our EMS providers can be commemorated and honored.

HONORING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my steadfast support for the Peace Corps as we celebrate the 65th anniversary of its founding this month.

On March 1st, we marked 65 years since President John F. Kennedy issued his historic call to service at the University of Michigan. That call inspired a generation of Americans to serve beyond our shores. From its first group of volunteers in 1961, the Peace Corps has grown into a global network of more than 240,000 Americans who have served in over 140 countries. For six and a half decades, it has remained a singular instrument of American people-to-people diplomacy, advancing world peace and friendship through service.

Today, the Peace Corps continues to connect American volunteers to opportunity internationally, providing technical assistance and fostering social and economic development abroad. Its services span various fields, including agriculture, economic development, education, environment, health and youth development.

As a Member of Congress from Hawaii, representing our Pacific Island communities and the deep ties that bind us across Oceania, I am especially proud of the Peace Corps' enduring legacy in the Indo-Pacific. The Peace Corps first established its presence in the Pacific Islands in 1966. It partnered with what are now the Freely Associated States—the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Since then, more than 13,000 volunteers have served in 12 Pacific Island nations. They have taught in classrooms, strengthened public health systems, supported youth leadership and worked alongside communities to build climate resilience and promote sustainable development.

Service flourished in the region until 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the evacuation of thousands of volunteers. This marked the first global suspension of Peace Corps operations in its history. But today, we celebrate not only an anniversary, but a new beginning.

Peace Corps volunteers have returned to Samoa, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu. Plans are underway to resume service in Palau, and

Congressional support exists to expand to the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. In January 2023, Samoa became the first Pacific Island nation to welcome volunteers back after the pandemic. Americans are once again serving as educators, librarians, health partners and community development advisors. They are working on disaster preparedness, environmental education and youth empowerment.

Public support for the Peace Corps remains strong. The ratio of annual applications to available volunteer positions exceeds 4 to 1. Thousands of Americans are ready and eager to serve. Retired General Stanley McChrystal described the gap between applicants and available opportunities as "democratic energy wasted and a generation of patriotism needlessly squandered." With sufficient funding, the agency can expand into strategically important regions, including additional Pacific Island nations that are eager to welcome volunteers.

Today, I continue to see the impact of the Peace Corps in my own district. I see it in the enthusiastic students at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa who are preparing to become the next generation of Peace Corps volunteers. I also see it in the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of Hawaii, more than 300 members strong, including many elders (kupuna) and veterans, who after completing their service chose to carry forward the Peace Corps mission here at home and across our Nation.

At a time when the world faces complex geopolitical, economic, humanitarian, public health and climate challenges, this is not the moment to reduce our commitment. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I strongly support the Peace Corps and its mission. I will continue working to protect and strengthen its funding so it can meet the growing demand for service.

On this 65th anniversary, let us reflect on President Kennedy's vision. He recognized that the talents cultivated across our Nation could serve the common good. He understood that national security and compassionate diplomacy are linked. That vision lives on through the work of thousands of volunteers today. It is our responsibility to carry that legacy forward.

I honor the Peace Corps family ('ohana) around the world, past, present and future, and want them to know that their steadfast commitment to service is deeply appreciated and profoundly valued. Especially in challenging times, their dedication to a broader purpose reflects the very best of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE GROUNDBREAKING OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH IN ELMA, 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 resilience and faith of the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Elma, New York, as they prepare to break ground on a new sanctuary following the devastating fire that destroyed their historic church on May 13, 2023. For more than