

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

150 years, St. Paul's stood as a pillar of worship and community life, and its loss was deeply felt by generations of parishioners and the broader Elma community.

In the aftermath of the fire, the congregation of St. Paul's came together with determination and hope, supported by generous contributions from across the country. Continuing to gather in a temporary space, they remained steadfast in their mission while planning for the future. This month, they take the significant step forward as they officially break ground on a new sanctuary that will serve their congregation for generations to come.

Throughout this journey, the leadership of Pastor Jonathan Haseley and the dedication of church members have ensured that St. Paul's remains not just a place, but a vibrant and enduring community. Their commitment has strengthened their congregation and preserved the spirit that has defined St. Paul's for over a century.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in recognizing St. Paul's Lutheran Church on this important milestone, and in wishing them continued success as they rebuild and look toward a bright future.

HONORING CANDY LOWE JONES

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 Tampa Bay native and visionary business leader, Candy Lowe Jones. As a champion of Black owned businesses and equitable economic opportunity, Candy Lowe has opened doors for connection, collaboration, and community empowerment across the Tampa Bay region.

Born in Tampa, Florida, Lowe attended C. Leon King High School and Erwin Technical College. For more than 30 years, she served honorably as a licensed nurse, providing compassionate and dedicated care to patients. Yet entrepreneurship had always been her passion. After her career in healthcare, she turned that passion into reality by opening a local tea shop in 2003—a welcoming gathering place that quickly became a hub for conversation, connection, and community. As a businesswoman, Lowe built lasting relationships with her customers, earning their trust and loyalty.

Business owners face many challenges, and Candy understands that engagement is essential to growth and long term success. In 2006, she founded the Black Business Bus Tour, an initiative designed to help Black owned businesses—from restaurants and boutiques to bookstores and beyond—grow and thrive. The tour was born from personal experience: Lowe knew the heartbreak of watching a business struggle, and she sought to honor the historical significance of Tampa's Central Avenue while uplifting a new generation of Black entrepreneurs.

Since its inception, the bus tour has saved businesses at risk of closing and fostered meaningful dialogue and networking among small businesses throughout Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg. Business owners and residents exchange ideas, share business cards,

and build relationships that strengthen the local economy. Elected officials, faith leaders, and community advocates have joined these tours, demonstrating the barriers Candy's work has broken down. The tour has reached hundreds of businesses and thousands of riders, generating revenue at every stop and inspiring plans for expansion across Florida.

Lowe's work bridges economic opportunity with civic engagement. Alongside the bus tour, she launched "Tea and Conversation," held every second and fourth Saturday, where community members and leaders gather to discuss the issues that matter most. Episodes are shared online, extending the conversation to an even wider audience. Candy is also a member of the NAACP, has served as a campaign manager and state representative for local elections in Tampa Bay and St. Petersburg, and founded the Independent Black Chamber of Commerce—ensuring that all business owners have equitable access to opportunity and community.

Every dollar matters. Through her unwavering advocacy, Lowe has held corporations large and small accountable for their lack of meaningful diversity efforts. Her work has protected the pocketbooks of our neighbors and uplifted Black businesses and the broader Tampa Bay community. She understands that the greater good is built on the success of all.

Candy is grounded by the support of her husband, Daryll "DJ" Jones, her grandparents, and her two children, Katisha Butler and Kendreque McKinnon Jar. She carries with her the understanding that while seasons change, humility and patience remain steadfast guides.

Mr. Speaker, Candy Lowe is the embodiment of service and selflessness. She is a bridge builder whose work connects neighbors to businesses and transforms that connection into economic power. Her lifelong goal—to be remembered as a woman who uplifted African American businesses and ensured they were never overlooked—has not only been achieved, but far surpassed. Her legacy is one of empowerment, resilience, and community transformation, and Tampa Bay is stronger because of her leadership.

RECOGNIZING MR. ARSBURN "OZ"
RAYNARD ROBERTS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man whose life and work have enriched our community and lifted the lives of countless Americans—Arsburn "Oz" Raynard Roberts—who, after 43 years of distinguished service at Aflac, now retires as the company's Historian. An event to celebrate his remarkable career will be held on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the AFLAC Worldwide Headquarters in Columbus, Georgia.

Oz's story is one of creativity, commitment, and compassionate service. A proud graduate of the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design, he brought artistry and vision to every role he held. For over 35 years he served as Second Vice President and Executive Producer of Event Productions and Audiovisual Services at Aflac Worldwide Headquarters in Columbus, Georgia. An

Emmy Award-winning producer and director, an award-winning photographer and graphic designer, Oz turned corporate events into moments of dignity and joy, and he turned the ordinary into the unforgettable.

Through four decades of work, Oz produced and orchestrated events for world leaders, beloved entertainers, civil rights icons, and champions of sport—from Presidents Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush to Ambassador Andrew Young; from poet Dr. Maya Angelou and civil-rights leader Rev. Joseph Lowery to Generals Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf; from Gladys Knight and Earth, Wind & Fire to Super Bowl Champions Joe Montana and Jerry Rice. He made the Aflac stage a place where excellence met humanity, and where people felt seen and honored.

Oz's influence extends far beyond Aflac's walls. He served the Miss Georgia Scholarship Pageant as vice president of the board of trustees, producer/director, and vice president of scholarship and fundraising. He has judged Miss America state preliminaries across the Nation and contributed to scholarship pageants that open doors for young people. He has been a leader in civic and cultural life—on the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, the Riverside Theater Advisory Council, the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries Board of Trustees, the Columbus Ballet Board, the Hardaway High School Alumni Association, and many more—bringing passion, stewardship, and an unwavering belief in the power of the arts and education.

A stalwart in fraternal and community organizations, Oz is a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., has served as chapter president of Delta Iota Lambda, and chairs the Columbus chapter of 100 Black Men of America and the Annual Black History Observance Committee. His many honors—Photographer of the Year, Global Leadership Award, Outstanding Leadership and Service recognitions from PanHellenic and local institutions, the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteer Service, and Man of the Year from the Not a Bad Apple Foundation—reflect a lifetime of leadership and selfless service. It has been said that "Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth." Oz has paid his rent, and he has paid it well.

But titles and awards only tell part of Oz's story. Those who know him remember his steady presence, his generous mentorship to young professionals, and the way he transformed technical production into human connection. He taught others that true success is measured not in applause but in the opportunities, you create for others—in the scholarships awarded, careers launched, stages shared, and communities strengthened.

On a personal note, Oz has been a friend for many years. What I have always admired about Oz is that he steps up when he sees a need in the community. I will be forever grateful for his commitment, fidelity, and his friendship.

Oz has accomplished many things in life, but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God and the love and support of his wife Vanessa (VJ) and his daughter, Jessica. As he steps into retirement from a remarkable Aflac tenure that spanned four decades and touched presidents, community leaders, entertainers, and thousands of coworkers,