

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,

we salute a husband, a father, a friend, and a cultural steward whose work at Aflac has left an indelible mark on Columbus, the region, and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife Vivian, and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring Arsburn "Oz" Raynard Roberts for 43 years of extraordinary service at Aflac—for his creativity, leadership, and unwavering devotion to community. We thank him, we celebrate him, and we wish him and his family joy and blessing in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILLY"
BAIR

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary member of our community, William "Billy" Bair, whose selfless service at the Hernando County Family YMCA exemplifies the very best of what it means to give back.

Billy is the definition of a "Hero Among Us." A deeply committed volunteer, he has dedicated countless hours to supporting nearly every youth sports program at the YMCA. He does not serve for recognition or praise. He shows up day after day simply because he believes in our young people and understands the life-changing power of positive role models. His impact extends far beyond the field or the gym. Billy builds meaningful relationships with the children he mentors. He notices the child who needs encouragement, the one struggling with confidence, and the one who just needs someone to believe in them. With patience, kindness, and integrity, he creates an environment where every child feels seen, valued, and capable of success.

What makes Billy especially remarkable is his humility. He never seeks the spotlight and never asks for anything in return. Whether stepping in wherever help is needed, mentoring young athletes, or supporting fellow volunteers and staff, he embodies true servant leadership. He understands that youth sports are not simply about wins and losses, but about building character, fostering teamwork, and teaching lifelong lessons. Parents trust him. Children look up to him. Staff rely on him. Billy has become a cornerstone of the youth

sports community in Hernando County, and his steady presence has helped shape a culture rooted in encouragement, responsibility, and respect. The YMCA strives to develop youth, promote healthy living, and foster social responsibility. Billy Bair lives out those values each and every day. He does more than volunteer—he strengthens the very foundation of the organization and enriches the lives of the families it serves.

For the time he gives, the hearts he impacts, and the countless lives he has helped shape, I am proud to recognize William "Billy" Bair as a true Hero Among Us.

It is clear that Mr. William "Billy" Bair has made an extraordinary and deeply positive impact on countless lives, and I am profoundly grateful for his dedication and service. It is my distinct privilege to recognize him as a 2026 Hero Among Us for Florida's 12th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARVIN
R. KNIGHT

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 Marvin R. Knight, whose lifelong commitment to uniting people reflects the values he learned from both his family and the community that shaped him.

Marvin Knight was born in Dade City, Florida, grew up in Zephyrhills and graduated from Leto High School in Tampa in 1979. Son of Early D. and Joyce M. Knight, and the youngest of nine, Marvin was shaped by the values of a close-knit family devoted to hard work. In Zephyrhills, he got an early start picking oranges, stacking sod and collecting chicken eggs. When he moved to West Tampa in the mid-1970s, he picked up a job at Boromei-Mirabella Seafood Co., which had its origins selling fish to hungry dock workers in the 1920s that grew into a family business that thrived in community engagement. Marvin had a front-row seat to this—a family that worked together to contribute to the local economy, build community trust and make a positive impact. Marvin started at the company cleaning floors and learned from the Mirabella family about savings, responsibility and met many of influential community members. Before long, Marvin was making candidate signs, getting

involved in local campaigns, and learning the in's and out's of public policy.

Marvin went on to earn a degree in electronic technology and computer electronics, and started working for TECO Energy in 1985. During his 36-year tenure at the company, he was a journeyman mechanic and then a senior transformer repairman. While he had the opportunity to join TECO management, he chose to stay in the union and remain active in union causes. Also, during his tenure at TECO, he continued helping out Mirabella Seafood Co., eventually going into partnership with the family and then buying them out in the 1990s. Marvin's Oriental Fish Co. still stands today as a family-owned business that brings people together where visitors can order up fresh seafood always with a side of friendliness. The Oriental Fish Co. is also a welcome sight when seen serving up hot plates for our community—such as in the aftermath of hurricanes or on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.

While Marvin's parents were his primary influences in learning the important work of bringing people together, he also took note of this convening power on the national stage during the Civil Rights era under the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr. He said: "When you look at the marches, it wasn't just African Americans, there were whites, females, Italians, Cubans . . . all walks of life. He brought us together for a common cause." In his latest effort to continue bringing our community together, Marvin launched Positive Image Tampa Bay aimed at unity through uplifting community events.

There are few causes where Marvin hasn't lent his time, talent and treasure. He has served on the HART Board of Directors, Hillsborough County Tax Collector Advisory Board, Tampa Police Development Citizens Advisory Committee, West Tampa Community Redevelopment Agency, East Tampa Civic Association, Belmont Heights Little League Advisory Board, Robles Park Boys & Girls Club, Freddie Solomon Boys & Girls Club. He is a Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Honorary Deputy, a life member of the local NAACP and a member of St. John's Progressive Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Tampa Bay area neighbors, I extend my profound appreciation to Marvin Knight whose steadfast dedication to our community, and deliberate and consistent service reflect the values instilled in him and stand as an example for all.