

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.

Carolyn, a teacher, was equally committed to public education and public service, including volunteering at schools throughout her life and leadership in Friendship Force. Together, they finished college and graduate school in North Carolina, with his undergraduate and master's degrees at North Carolina State University and her undergraduate degree and his law degree at UNC-Chapel Hill. After law school, they lived for two years in Nepal, where Hunt worked as a Ford Foundation economic adviser. When they returned to Wilson County, Hunt was elected president of the state Young Democrats in 1968. He chaired a reform commission that opened state party leadership positions to minorities, women, and young people. He listened to all people and maintained a laser focus on getting things done, even if it meant a hundred phone calls or a thousand handshakes in one day. It could always be done.

During his campaigns, he drove to every county in the state, stopping to eat barbecue and shake more hands. He loved to enjoy good food, especially with his family. Whether it was Carolyn cooking a seafood breakfast or fish on Fridays at Papa Jack's, he was always game. His Christian faith was a central part of his life, first at Marsh Swamp Baptist Church and later at First Presbyterian Church of Wilson. In every place they lived, including Nepal, Jimmy loved singing in the church choir with his wife. Music gave him so much joy. He would always sing songs with his brother and their wives at the annual Hunt holiday gathering. Hunt had a great love for working on his family farm and having Simmental cattle, and he was also a voracious reader throughout his life. Reading multiple newspapers each day was a common practice.

While Hunt made an immeasurable impact on all North Carolinians, his dedication and love for his wife, children, grandchildren, and great, grandchildren was above all. His passion for sports was strong, specifically N.C. State athletics. He took his family to all the games he could and watched the ones he could not attend. Jimmy and Carolyn never forgot a birthday or anniversary, always marked by a call with a beautifully sung "Happy Birthday" song. Carolyn's birthday was always marked by a family beach trip. Jimmy loved to swim in the ocean with his children, often floating on a raft. He cared deeply for his grandchildren and was very active with all of them. He would frequently be found fishing in the pond on his farm, swimming in the pool, or playing basketball with them. No matter the activity, he made sure to teach lessons along the way on how to stand up for what is right, always reminding them that "Hunts aren't quitters". His unwavering support and endless love for his family is something they will never forget.

In 1972, he was elected lieutenant governor and immediately got to work to establish statewide public kindergartens, raise teacher pay and protect governors' powers from legislative intrusion. In 1976, he was elected governor for the first time; he was 38 years old. Hunt served as governor for an unprecedented four terms, totaling 16 years. Carolyn's love and dedication to supporting her husband and raising their four children allowed Hunt to dedicate so much of his life to serving the people of North Carolina. As North Carolina's First Lady, Carolyn welcomed a constant stream of schoolchildren and other visitors from the state and beyond to the Executive Mansion.

Hunt is remembered by countless North Carolinians whom he led and inspired through more than 60 years of political and public service. He led North Carolina's transformation from a poor, largely rural state of farms and factories to a fast growing magnet for research, technology, and bioscience. When he left office at the beginning of the 21st Century, the state was recognized as one of the best places in the Nation to live and do business.

Hunt loved North Carolina and its people. He believed in the limitless potential that can come from hard work, dedication, passion, and perseverance. His life was a direct representation of those values and many more. His family is eternally grateful for the countless memories, lessons, and love he poured into them.

Governor Hunt is survived by his wife Carolyn Leonard Hunt; his brother Robert Brame Hunt (Margaret); his children Rebecca Hunt-Hawley (Jimmy), James Baxter Hunt, III (Deb), Rachel Henderson Hunt (Olav), and Elizabeth Hunt Amigh (Kevin); his grandchildren Hannah Streeter Hawley, Joseph Thornton Hawley (Casey), Stephanie Hunt Toder (Charlie), James Baxter Hunt, IV, Lindsey Derrick Hunt, Katia Hunt Nilender (Declan), Jonas Hunt Nilender, Jackson Zeak Amigh, Grace Leonard Amigh, and John Ross Amigh; and great grandchildren Isaac Harrison Hawley, Banks Thornton Hawley, Emily Lynn Toder, and Alex Harold Toder.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BENJAMIN SOO RHEE

#### HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2026*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Benjamin Soo Rhee. Benjamin was a respected physician, devoted family man and cherished member of his community. He passed away peacefully on December 25, 2025.

Dr. Rhee dedicated his life to the service of others through his work in medicine. He was deeply respected and admired by his colleagues and countless patients for his compassion, professionalism and integrity over the course of his distinguished career. He graduated from Korea University Medical School and later immigrated to the United States in 1964 from the Kyungi Province of the Republic of Korea, becoming a U.S. Citizen in 1976.

Dr. Rhee completed his residency in Internal Medicine in New York and went into private medical practice with his wife, a pediatrician. Together they would treat and heal patients for decades before retiring and moving to the City of Irvine, California.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Dr. Rhee had a passion and love for music, including singing karaoke. He also had a love for reading and writing, including authoring a 300-page book which documented the genealogy of his family dating back seventeen generations.

Benjamin was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Dr. Wha Ja Choi, his two children, Edward and Richard and his six grandchildren: Brandon, Colin, Jason, Chloe, Kendall and Christian, who were the lights of his life.

He will be remembered not only for his contributions to the field of medicine, but also for his kindness, intellect and deep devotion to his family and community. His legacy of service and engagement will continue to inspire and guide those whom he served in his life.

#### HONORING BRENDA GORMLEY'S LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. BRANDON GILL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 12, 2026*

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Brenda Gormley and to honor her 24 years of distinguished public service to Denton County, Texas. Her commitment to emergency preparedness and volunteer training strengthened Denton County and North Texas, leaving a lasting legacy.

Brenda's involvement in emergency preparedness began in 2005 when she was introduced to the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) during a visit to the Highland Village Fire Department. What started as a simple inquiry quickly turned into a lifelong passion. She served as a CERT manager and instructor, earning recognition as a Texas CERT Master Instructor.

After Hurricane Katrina, Brenda served as a shelter manager and helped establish the Denton County CERT program at the request of Assistant Chief Roland Asebedo. Starting with fewer than a dozen volunteers, she grew the program into one of the most respected in Texas, expanding it to more than 500 background-checked, active members who received free, hands-on training open to all Denton County residents.

Under Brenda's dedicated leadership, Denton County's Citizen Corps Council received the National Award for Outstanding Citizen Corps Council in 2009. She served as Secretary of the Denton County VOAD Citizen Corps Council and as Past Chair of the North Central Texas Regional Citizen Corps Council, helping implement, expand, and sustain Citizen Corps programs regionally and statewide. Brenda's significant contributions to community preparedness and public service were recognized by Governor Greg Abbott at the state level and President Barack Obama nationally.

Brenda also helped develop the G517 CERT Master Instructor curriculum and the G417 CERT refresher curriculum for Texas. In 2011, she was honored as the first recipient of the Jack Colley Citizen Corps Leadership Award for her exceptional leadership and service. She further enhanced Denton County CERT by creating specialized response teams, often called upon to assist first responders.

Mr. Speaker, Brenda Gormley embodied the true spirit of public service and neighbors helping neighbors. I request my colleagues to join me in honoring her extraordinary dedication and contributions to the safety and security of her neighbors in Denton County and across Texas. Our sincere condolences go to her family, friends, and colleagues.