

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.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF
THE PURDY WELCOME CENTER
AND CONSERVATORY GARDENS
AT BROOKGREEN GARDENS

HON. RUSSELL FRY

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the opening of the Purdy Welcome Center and Conservatory Gardens at Brookgreen Gardens, a National Historic Landmark in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. This is the largest capital project at Brookgreen in the last thirty years. It will welcome visitors from around the world with a conservatory of living plant displays, including an expansive orchid collection, sculpture made from plant materials, and a wetland garden and trail that teaches best environmental practices.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Brookgreen Gardens on this milestone and in celebrating the cultural, educational, and tourism benefits it will bring to our state.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF CLAIRE HALL

HON. MAXINE DEXTER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dedicated public servant and a beloved leader in Oregon.

Lincoln County Commissioner Claire Hall devoted more than two decades of her life to serving her community with integrity, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

A longtime Newport resident, Commissioner Hall was first elected in 2004 and went on to serve her county with distinction. Throughout her tenure, she worked relentlessly to expand access to healthcare, strengthen benefits for veterans, and advance affordable housing so that more families could remain rooted in the communities they love.

She was known for her willingness to take on difficult fights and for standing firm when the stakes were high. Most recently, Commissioner Hall was a fierce champion in opposing plans for an ICE detention center in Newport and in blocking any federal effort to relocate a Coast Guard rescue helicopter to make room for such a facility—always putting community safety, human dignity, and local values first.

In 2018, Claire Hall announced her gender transition with a statement that reflected the clarity and moral conviction she brought to every chapter of her life. She wrote, in part: "I will remain focused on social justice issues like the needs of children, families, seniors, people with disabilities and veterans. But now, the act of living my life itself becomes an act of social justice."

Commissioner Hall's life was indeed an act of social justice and a profound gift to her community.

She reminded us that public service is not measured only by the policies we advance, but by the dignity we defend, the people we protect, and the courage we bring to our work.

May we honor Commissioner Hall each day by choosing compassion, justice, and love for

our neighbors, and by continuing the work she so powerfully embodied.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT
COLONEL REINA "REI" SERINEO

HON. JAMES C. MOYLAN

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Reina "Rei" Serineo of the United States Air Force, a proud daughter of Guam, as she concludes a distinguished career in service to our Nation.

For nearly two decades, Lt. Col. Serineo has embodied the very best of what it means to wear the uniform. She has served with distinction across continents and commands, in the air and on the ground, in moments of routine readiness and in times of real danger. Her career reflects not only operational excellence, but a deep commitment to leadership, mentorship, and the future of our Air Force.

Lt. Col. Serineo entered the Air Force in June of 2005 after graduating from the University of Portland and commissioning through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

From the very beginning, she chose a path that demanded precision, judgment, and courage. As an Air Battle Manager, she became a master of one of the most complex and critical missions in modern warfare.

Over the course of her career, she logged more than 2,000 flight hours aboard the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System with more than 300 of those hours in combat and combat-support missions in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Counter-ISIS.

These were not abstract missions. They were real-world operations in contested airspace, where decisions made in seconds carried life-and-death consequences for service members on the ground and in the air.

Her assignments tell the story of a leader trusted at every level. Lt. Col. Serineo consistently stepped into roles of greater responsibility. She served as an instructor, a flight commander, a chief of standardization and evaluations, an assistant director of operations, and a director of staff. In each role, she set the standard, not only for mission execution, but for how leaders should treat their people.

Most recently, as the Common Mission Control Center Functional Area Manager within Air Combat Command, she directed policy, operations, and training for the Battle Control Center weapon system. In this role, she helped shape the future of how our Air Force fights, leading teams across major commands, building consensus and vision.

What makes Lt. Col. Serineo's career especially meaningful is not only what she accomplished, but how she accomplished it. She invested in young Airmen, modeled professionalism, and reminded those around her that Leadership is not about rank, but integrity and responsibility.

Her educational achievements mirror that same drive for excellence. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, completed Squadron Officer School, and obtained a Master of Public Administration. She is a graduate of Air Command and Staff College. At every stage, she prepared herself not only to serve, but to lead wisely.

Lt. Col. Serineo's decorations, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, and the Air and Space Commendation Medal are symbols of a career defined by impact. But medals alone cannot capture the lives she influenced, the missions she safeguarded, or the trust she earned.

As she transitions from active service, our Nation remains stronger because of her. The systems she helped shape, the Airmen she mentored, and the standards she set will endure long after this chapter closes.

I thank Lt. Col. Serineo for her service, her sacrifice, and her leadership. She answered the call in moments of uncertainty and danger. She carried responsibility with grace and she left behind a legacy of excellence that will guide those who follow. May the next chapter of her life be filled with the same purpose, fulfillment, and success that defined her time in uniform.

HONORING PROFESSOR JAMES
"JIM" ARTHUR ALBERT FOR A
LIFETIME OF SERVICE

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 12, 2026

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the legacy of James "Jim" Arthur Albert, a remarkable Iowan whose lifetime of service has left a profound mark on our state, Nation, and communities far beyond our borders.

Jim has served as a Professor of Law at Drake University for 43 years, earning national recognition for his teaching and shaping generations of attorneys through his steadfast commitment to excellence, integrity, and the rule of law. He has been named Professor of the Year at Drake on eight occasions, a distinction that reflects both the esteem of his students and his enduring influence on the legal profession. Prior to entering academia, he was a longtime trial lawyer and a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School, class of 1976.

Beyond the classroom and courtroom, Jim has devoted himself to public service and ethical leadership. Since 1997, he has served as Chair of the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Finance Disclosure Board, providing principled, steady leadership and strengthening transparency and accountability in Iowa's political process. Jim also served as a Federal Communications Broadcast Attorney in Washington, D.C., demonstrating his lifetime commitment to public service.

Jim's impact extends well beyond the borders of Iowa through his visionary leadership of the James Arthur Albert Foundation. Through this nonprofit, he has personally led more than 30 service missions to Belize, where he has worked to expand access to education by awarding scholarships, directing construction projects in underserved communities, and establishing workforce development programs for young Belizeans. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a nationally supported effort, as Professor Albert has forged lasting partnerships across Des Moines, throughout Iowa, and across the country—raising millions of dollars to promote education, economic opportunity, and lasting transformation in Belize.