

Morgan, and Roxie Walker; his special friend Anna Foster; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel "Radney" Granville; his parents, Deacon General Granville, Sr. and Hattie Dumas Granville; sisters Betty and Evelyn Granville; and brothers Jessie, General, Jr., Roosevelt, Hollis, and Johnnie Granville, Sr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, my wife Vivian, and me along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring the life of Mr. Willie Granville, Sr. His life was a testament to duty, faith, and community. His steadfast commitment to his fellow soldiers, his church, and his neighbors left an indelible mark on all who knew him. I join his family, friends, and the Columbus community in mourning his loss and in giving thanks for his many years of faithful service. May his memory be a blessing and an inspiration to future generations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Paul Laurence Dunbar Commemorative Coin Act, which would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and issue coins in honor of Paul Laurence Dunbar. This bill would recognize one of the first influential African American poets in American literature and benefit the Dunbar Alumni Federation, the alumni association for the Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School in the District of Columbia, which was the first public high school for African Americans in the United States. I am a proud graduate of Dunbar, a storied African American high school.

Paul Laurence Dunbar was born on June 27, 1872, to formerly enslaved parents, and went on to pen such classics as *Majors and Minors* and *Lyrics of Lowly Life*. He also wrote the lyrics for *In Dahomey*, the first all-African American musical produced on Broadway. By the late 1890s, Dunbar had become a prominent author, having had his poems published in major national newspapers, including *The New York Times*. Dunbar died on February 9, 1906, at age 33.

Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School was established in 1870 as the Preparatory High School for Colored Youth. It was the first college preparatory high school for African Americans in the United States. The school was renamed for Dunbar in 1916. The Dunbar Alumni Federation was organized in 2002 to provide scholarships and other financial support to students and graduates of Paul Laurence Dunbar Senior High School. The Dunbar Alumni Federation has alumni from more than 35 graduating classes, and supports the school through its scholarship efforts, community activities and other endeavors. This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to mint 50,000 five-dollar coins, 400,000 one-dollar coins and 750,000 half-dollar coins, with a surcharge on each coin. The surcharges would benefit the scholarships and similar activities of the Dunbar Alumni Federation.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF DARIEL FERNANDEZ

HON. CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miami-Dade County Tax Collector Darriel Fernandez for his outstanding leadership and service to our community.

As the first directly elected Tax Collector in Miami-Dade County, Darriel Fernandez has brought greater accountability and a renewed commitment to delivering results for the people of Miami-Dade County. Under his leadership, the office has expanded services, improved accessibility, and modernized operations to better serve residents across our county.

Beyond his work at the county level, Mr. Fernandez has also been a strong partner in advancing policies that support freedom and democracy in our hemisphere. In particular, he has stood firmly with our efforts to hold the brutal Cuban regime accountable and to support the Cuban people in their fight for liberty. His leadership reflects the values of our South Florida community—one that understands the importance of standing up to oppression and defending freedom wherever it is threatened.

Darriel Fernandez embodies the American Dream. His story is one of perseverance, commitment, and a deep love for the community he serves. His work continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of countless residents across Miami-Dade County.

I commend Tax Collector Fernandez for his dedication to Miami-Dade County and wish him continued success.

RECOGNIZING JERRY BERNHARDT AS CARO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exemplary member of the Caro community, Jerry Bernhardt, as the recipient of the Caro Chamber of Commerce 2025 Citizen of the Year Award. His leadership, dedication, and commitment to service have made a lasting impact on the Caro community.

Jerry has served as treasurer for the Caro Rotary Club for more than 15 years, providing steady leadership while helping guide major projects. His commitment to service extends across a wide range of efforts, including tree-planting initiatives, the Adopt-a-Highway program, Pumpkin Festival activities, Coats for Kids, holiday gift drives for students in need, and the Rotary Student Exchange Program, where he has helped inspire young people to broaden their horizons. Through each of these initiatives, he has played a meaningful role in strengthening and supporting the Caro community.

In addition, Jerry has served his church through pastoral duties and as treasurer, while

spearheading the Furniture Program, which provides essential household items to families in need. He is a founding member of the Tuscola County Spartans Alumni Association, helping plan the Annual Sparty Party Scholarship Fundraiser, which awards scholarships to local students attending Michigan State University. He has volunteered with the Good Samaritan Fund, writing grants that secured vital assistance for families in need, and also contributed his time to organizations such as the Janks Foundation, the McComb School as a lunch buddy, and Habitat for Humanity.

Yet above all, Jerry's greatest role is that of husband, father, and grandfather. His family describes him as a patient and positive role model who teaches that life's challenges are met with resilience, faith, and optimism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jerry Bernhardt for his extraordinary contributions to the Caro community. His leadership, integrity, and devotion to family and community set an example for all, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call vote No. 106, No. 107, and No. 108, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING THE NATIONAL HOT ROD ASSOCIATION

HON. NORMA J. TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Hot Rod Association as it celebrates its 75th anniversary.

In 1951, a letter in the *Hot Rod* magazine by Wally Parks urged hot rodders to unite, leading to the establishment of the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA). Its mission was founded on the principles of bringing hot rodders together, promoting safety, and allowing racers to compete without creating safety concerns on public streets.

In just a year, the NHRA grew to 7,000 members. The organization worked with local authorities to set national standards for drag racing. The very first NHRA event was held in 1953, in my hometown of Pomona, California. I am proud that for the past 75 years, the Pomona Dragstrip has remained a historic venue for drag racing and national NHRA events.

After its establishment, NHRA continued to grow, sanctioning more than 100 race tracks across 38 states by 1957. As NHRA expanded, newspapers credited its focus on safe, organized racing, and the 1957 Nationals drew more than 450 entries. By the end of the 1950s, the NHRA was no longer recognized as a movement, but instead as a motorsports institution.

In 1961, the NHRA expanded beyond one annual national event by adding the

Winternationals race, and adding the Nationals race to the Indianapolis Raceway Park. Winternationals has been hosted by the Pomona Dragstrip since that time. In 1965, World Finals began to air on television, growing the sport's popularity beyond the U.S., and into England and Europe, and allowing it to secure membership in the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the Automobile Competition Committee of the United States (ACCUS).

Under the leadership of founder Wally Parks, the NHRA increased its annual events, year after year, until its schedule grew to 10 events by the end of the 1970s. Venues were developed throughout North America, enhancing its ability to host new events each year. The 1970s were marked by increased media coverage, corporate support, and on-track innovation, allowing for a more diverse, professional, and mainstream audience for the NHRA.

Even though the NHRA's first race was in Pomona and it later on moved elsewhere, premier motorsports could not stay away from the Inland Empire for long: in 1980, World Finals were at the Ontario Motor Speedway, and in 1984, the NHRA World Finals moved back to Pomona, which has hosted this prestigious event, with one exception, since that time.

Throughout the 1990s, motorsports continued to break more barriers by growing its online presence, developing multi-million dollar sponsorships, and hitting record speeds on the track. In the new millennium, the NHRA continued to work with multi-million dollar sponsors, partnering up with companies such as Powerade, ESPN, and Coca-Cola.

By the 2010s, NHRA's leadership continued the legacy of Wally Parks' founding mission, and focused on incorporating new safety and technology. NHRA partnered with FOX Sports in 2015, allowing the organization to air four-wide racing on national television. Just last year, both men and women set record-high speeds, showing that the sport continues to innovate and grow.

NHRA's impact is widespread: its focus on motorsports safety, vehicle standards, modernized rules, and continuously updated protocols that ensure the protection of drivers, teams, and fans, remains unparalleled. For the past 75 years, NHRA has been a driving force in American motorsports and car culture, ensuring it will continue to flourish for the coming decades.

For its remarkable legacy of innovation and growth, and key role in public safety, competition, and community, it is my honor to recognize the 75th anniversary of the National Hot Rod Association. Its deep roots in the Inland Empire and widespread popularity is worthy of the highest commendation.

RECOGNIZING DEE ARMSTRONG
ON HER GEORGIA BROADCASTERS
HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heart full of gratitude and a voice that remembers the countless evenings when a fa-

miliar presence brought comfort to homes across Columbus and south Georgia—Ms. Dee Armstrong—on the occasion of her induction into the 2026 Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame on March 27, 2026, at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

There are lives whose passing of time reads like a steady, comforting heartbeat in a community. Dee's life and career have been that steady pulse—a presence many of us leaned on in moments of joy and sorrow, a voice that announced births, mourned losses, celebrated triumphs, and called us to care for one another. She began that calling as a teenager, balancing high school classes with weekend shifts at Columbus, Georgia Radio Station WDAK, tutored by a demanding but kind mentor who saw in her something the rest of us would come to know as courage—the courage to stand, to speak, and to be counted.

At nineteen, while still finding her way as a young woman, Dee stepped into a television anchor chair and, with a clarity of purpose and a tenderness of spirit, she became the youngest television anchor in the country. That milestone was only the first of many. She moved through newsrooms with humility and grit—from WRBL in Columbus, Georgia, to WSBT in South Bend, and back home to WTVM in Columbus, Georgia—where she became more than an anchor. For three decades she was a companion for viewers, a steady hand on the tiller when storms came, a warm laugh at the start of the day, and a thoughtful voice at the close of evening. Families invited Dee into their living rooms, trusting her to tell their stories honestly and to hold their grief and their joy with equal care.

Dee was the first to bring a daytime talk show to our market, and in doing so she broke yet another barrier—not for the sake of records, but to give a stage to those whose voices needed to be heard. Her guests ranged from national figures to neighbors with quiet heroism. She used her platform not to show how bright she could shine, but to make others glow. Whether interviewing community leaders, championing health awareness through “Buddy Check 9,” or telling the stories of children whose futures we all should protect, Dee made us feel seen and made us, in turn, want to do better for one another.

Her career is studded with awards, but what lingers in the memory is far more human: the woman who knelt to help a child, who organized a ball to raise money for a wig so a little girl could smile again, who taught Sunday School with the same patience she used before a camera. She has been a mother to four sons, a grandmother of seven, a great-grandmother, a singer in choirs, a mentor, a stalwart friend. When life pulled her into unexpected chapters—repairing apartments with her own hands, selling life insurance, running a flea market—she met each turn with the same faith and industrious spirit that shaped her reporting. Nothing about Dee was showy; everything about her was real.

And so, this Hall of Fame honor is, at its heart, recognition of a life that belonged to others. It honors the nights she spent preparing scripts so a community could be informed, the hours she gave to causes that saved lives, the long conversations with young people who needed a word of encouragement. It honors tears shared and wiped away, and the countless ordinary moments when she chose kindness over convenience.

Every newsroom has its stars, but few become family. For Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley, Dee Armstrong became family. Her voice soothed anxious parents, her reporting spurred action, and her compassion taught us how to be better neighbors. Her induction into the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame is not merely about a career well executed; it is a community's way of saying thank you to a woman who gave her talents away freely and asked for nothing in return.

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 celebrating Dee Armstrong—not only for the accolades, but for the grace, the courage, and the relentless, tender care she has shown a region that loves her dearly. May her example continue to remind us that true greatness is measured in service, in small mercies, and in a life lived toward others.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF NORMA M. WELKER

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an extraordinary milestone in the life of an incredible constituent from my district, Mrs. Norma Welker, who has recently turned 100 years old.

Born on April 9, 1926, Norma grew up in Coal Township, Pennsylvania as the daughter of a schoolteacher. She spent her childhood enjoying all the surrounding countryside in rural Pennsylvania, instilling in her a passion for nature that would last a lifetime. Her childhood memories camping in the wilderness are to this day some of her most cherished. In addition to camping and exploring nature, she found herself drawn to cosmetology, enjoying the latest fashion trends of her time during the interwar period.

In 1944, she graduated from Coal Township High School and later attended beauty school in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. During her time there, she stayed in a YMCA to save money while she got her education. Her wise financial decisions and frugal living paid off when she was finally able to open her own beauty shop out of her family home in Shamokin, PA at 19 years old. Named My Lady's, her beauty shop was a staple in her community, bringing in individuals from Shamokin as well as the neighboring towns. She brought joy and kindness to all who shopped with her.

A few short years later, Norma married the love of her life, Clifford H. Welker, a World War II veteran, on August 15, 1948. Together, they had two children, Glenn and Lynn, and soon after moved to Morrisville in Bucks County when Clifford took a job as a blacksmith at American Bridge in Philadelphia. She continued her hair styling work in Trenton, New Jersey, before ultimately deciding to focus full time on raising her family. Even still, she enjoyed occasionally doing the hair of her friends and neighbors in her free time.

In her later years, Norma fully pursued her passion for the great outdoors and traveling. She was able to visit all 50 states in the U.S., with the highlight of her travels being her