

Alongside her late husband, Dansberry Abraham Lincoln Baker Sr., she raised six children—Judge, Napoleon, Druscilla, Dansberry Jr., Profit, and Lloyd. However, she didn't just stop there, she opened her home to children across the community, creating a safe, nurturing environment where everyone felt welcomed and cared for.

A devoted community leader, Mrs. Baker owned and operated a grocery store that not only provided essential goods but also served as a critical place for families in need to shop. Her kindness and compassion were evident in every part of her work, always putting others before herself.

Her commitment to preserving history was equally remarkable. Mrs. Baker played an important role in protecting the historic Guinea one-room schoolhouse, which served Black students from 1918 to 1959. When the community plan to convert the site into a beer garden, she fought tirelessly to preserve its legacy. In a defining moment, she attended an auction at Union Bank & Trust and successfully put in a bid for \$575 to reclaim the building—an act that earned her deep respect not just from her immediate community, but those who also doubted her abilities.

After securing the property, she transformed the schoolhouse into the Ever-Ready Club, a space to uplift children and ensure they had access to the resources and opportunities needed to succeed.

In 1962, Mrs. Baker then donated the land to be used for the new Macedonia Baptist Church in Woodford, Virginia. In recognition of her remarkable gift, she was honored as the church's first "Mother" and had the distinction of cutting the ribbon on Easter Sunday, April 14, 1963.

More than six decades later, the church continues to serve as a spiritual home for many Virginians.

I want to personally honor Mrs. Baker for her contributions and unwavering commitment to the Caroline County community. I also want to thank family, friends, and members of Macedonia Baptist Church for their ongoing service and dedication to strengthening our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Baker, and her legacy of faith and community leadership.

HONORING THE RICHMOND FREE PRESS AND ITS ENDURING LEGACY

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary legacy of the Richmond Free Press, a publication that, for decades, served as a trusted voice, vigilant watchdog, and cultural cornerstone for Black communities across Central Virginia.

From its founding in 1992 by Raymond H. Boone to its final issue earlier this year, the Richmond Free Press stood as a powerful testament to the importance of independent Black journalism. At a time when too many stories impacting Black communities went under-reported or unheard, this Black-owned publication filled a critical gap by elevating voices,

shining a light on injustice, and celebrating the achievements, resilience, and contributions of Black Virginians.

For more than three decades, the Richmond Free Press provided in-depth coverage of issues that matter most—from education and economic opportunity to health disparities, housing, and civil rights. It chronicled both the challenges and triumphs of our communities, ensuring that the lived experiences of Black Virginians are not only acknowledged but preserved for future generations.

Importantly, the Richmond Free Press also played a vital role in strengthening civic engagement. By informing readers, holding institutions accountable, and fostering dialogue, it empowered individuals to participate more fully in our democracy. Its impact extended far beyond the pages of a newspaper as it helped shape public understanding, influence policy conversations, and build a more informed and engaged citizenry.

As the Richmond Free Press concludes its print circulation, we reflect not only on the end of an era but on the profound and lasting imprint it leaves behind. While its physical pages may cease publication, its legacy endures in the journalists it inspired, the stories it told, and the communities it uplifted.

The closing of the Richmond Free Press also serves as a sobering reminder of the challenges facing local and community-based journalism, particularly outlets that center historically underrepresented voices. It also underscores the importance of sustaining and supporting diverse media institutions that are essential to a healthy and inclusive democracy.

On behalf of Virginia's 4th Congressional District and the many readers whose lives have been touched by its work, I extend my deepest gratitude to the editors, reporters, photographers, and staff who made the Richmond Free Press a beacon of truth and accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring the Richmond Free Press for its remarkable service and enduring contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to our Nation.

RECOGNIZING COMMISSIONER HAZELLE P. ROGERS IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commissioner Hazelle P. Rogers in Honor of Women's History Month. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, Hazelle P. Rogers has dedicated her life to public service, leadership, and community advocacy, serving as a Democratic member of the Broward County Commission, former Mayor of Lauderdale Lakes, and as a member of the Florida House of Representatives; and

Whereas, born in Kingston, Jamaica, and immigrating to New York City as a teenager, Commissioner Rogers has demonstrated remarkable perseverance, earning her education and advancing through roles of increasing responsibility while remaining committed to uplifting her community; and

Whereas, Commissioner Rogers served on the Lauderdale Lakes City Commission beginning in 1996, championing initiatives that improved the quality of life for residents, and later represented the 94th and 95th Districts in the Florida House of Representatives, advocating for legislation to support education, property rights, and community development; and

Whereas, since her election to the Broward County Commission on August 23, 2022, Commissioner Rogers has continued to exemplify leadership and dedication, bringing her wealth of experience to address the needs of Broward County residents and striving to ensure equitable and inclusive governance; and

Whereas, Commissioner Rogers has been a mentor and advocate for women and young leaders, inspiring others through her example of integrity, resilience, and service, and fostering opportunities for the next generation of public servants; and

Whereas, throughout her career, Commissioner Rogers has been a trailblazer for women in government, inspiring others through her unwavering commitment, integrity, and advocacy for public service and civic engagement; and therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, Florida's 20th Congressional District, proudly recognize and honor Commissioner Hazelle P. Rogers during Women's History Month for her exemplary leadership, dedication to public service, and tireless efforts to improve the lives of her constituents, serving as a role model and inspiration for women and future leaders in Broward County and beyond.

RECOGNIZING APRIL AS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize April as the Month of the Military Child and to honor the youngest heroes of the great State of Tennessee.

As a graduate of West Point and a Soldier who has served both on active duty and in the Tennessee Army National Guard, I have seen firsthand that when a service member puts on the uniform, the entire family serves. While our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Guardians, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen stand on the front lines, their children serve on the home front, navigating the challenges of frequent moves, the uncertainty of new schools, and the long, quiet absences of a parent deployed in harm's way.

In Tennessee, we are blessed to be home to a vibrant and resilient community of military-connected youth. These children embody the true Volunteer Spirit, demonstrating a level of adaptability and courage that inspires us all. From the Great Smoky Mountains to the banks of the Mississippi, their presence is felt in every corner of our state.

In the Clarksville and Fort Campbell area, thousands of children support the elite warriors of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), the quiet professionals of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and the Night Stalkers of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. They are joined by the families of the Air Force's 19th Air Support Operations Squadron and Detachment 4 of the 18th Combat Weather Squadron, who together form the heart of a uniquely proud and patriotic community.

In West Tennessee, the children of Naval Support Activity Mid-South in Millington and Coast Guard Sector Lower Mississippi River in Memphis provide the essential foundation of support for those securing our Nation's maritime interests and vital inland waterways.

In Middle Tennessee, families at Arnold Air Force Base in Tullahoma and Coast Guard Station Buchanan on the Tennessee River contribute to the vanguard of our Nation's aerospace testing and riverine security.

Across the state, our Tennessee National Guard and Reserve families serve in nearly every county, proving that the strength of our military is rooted in the very neighborhoods we call home. Our commitment to these children goes beyond words; it is etched into our state's laws. Tennessee is a proud member of the Military Interstate Children's Compact, ensuring that the children of our service members face a seamless transition as they move between school districts and states. By removing barriers to enrollment, placement, and graduation, we ensure that their education is never a casualty of their parents' service.

According to recent data, Tennessee is proud to support over 34,000 military-connected children. Roughly 15,800 of these children belong to active-duty families, while more than 18,500 are the sons and daughters of our dedicated National Guard and Reserve members. Whether in a classroom in Clarksville or an armory in rural Tennessee, these children are the backbone of our military families, ready to adapt and thrive wherever life takes them.

To honor their sacrifice, I strongly encourage all government offices, local businesses, and private citizens across Tennessee and this Nation to proudly display and wear purple throughout this month. We Purple Up because that color represents the blending of all service branches. It is a visible and powerful symbol of our unified gratitude for the resilience of our military families.

We see the sacrifice made by the military children of Tennessee's 7th District and across this Nation, we thank them for their bravery, and we remain committed to ensuring they have the support and resources they deserve.

HONORING THE CAREERS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF RON JOLLY AND COLLEEN WARES McCLELLAND

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two remarkable voices of Northern Michigan, Ron Jolly and Colleen Wares McClelland, whose decades of service in the broadcasting industry informed, entertained, and connected communities across the state of Michigan. As they signed-off for the final time on April 10, 2026, we honor their lasting contributions to local journalism and public discourse.

For more than 30 years, Ron Jolly was a trusted voice for communities in Northern Michigan. Joining WTCM (AM) in Traverse City in 1994, he became a constant presence in the lives of countless listeners. Alongside

him, Colleen Wares McClelland built an equally impressive career, spanning over 45 years with Midwestern Broadcasting. Her steady presence and thoughtful engagement helped shape the Ron Jolly Show into one of the region's most beloved morning broadcasts.

Together the pair created more than just a morning radio program: they built a community of listeners who tuned in every weekday morning from 7 to 10 a.m., bringing high-level discussion of local, state, national, and global issues into cars, homes, and businesses across Northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Their conversations invited diverse perspectives and reminded listeners that even without seeing each other, as Michiganders, we are all connected. Their open phone lines fostered meaningful dialogue and thoughtful conversations, strengthening civil engagement throughout the region. When announcing their retirement, they spoke candidly about how difficult it will be to step away, yet, easy or hard, they would "hold hands and jump at the same time," a final testament to their partnership that was built on trust, respect, and a commitment to serving others.

Mr. Speaker, let us all join in recognizing Ron Jolly and Colleen Wares McClelland for their dedicated service to informing the public, preserving local history, and entertaining communities throughout our great state. On behalf of Michigan's 1st Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Ron and Colleen and wish them all the best in a well-earned retirement.

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE NAMUR IN CALIFORNIA

HON. SAM T. LICCARDO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mr. LICCARDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman KEVIN MULLIN, to honor the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, an International Apostolic Congregation of Catholic Sisters, on the historic occasion of their 175th anniversary. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur believed that educating young women could transform the world. Modern development economics has confirmed their guiding intuition: the very nations that most rapidly accelerate living standards have focused on widening access of women to education and careers. Their vision and network of schools now stretch across continents, generations, and countless lives—continuing to empower women and girls.

Born out of revolution-torn France in 1804, two women, Julie Billiart and Françoise Blin de Bourdon, founded the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to provide schools for girls in what we now know as Belgium. Julie's guiding spirit reflected a simple and bold vision: "Hearts as wide as the world." She believed in a God whose goodness knew no limits. Their congregation of sisters grew, as did the reach of their schools.

In 1843, Jesuit Father De Smet invited the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to the Pacific Frontier to open schools and orphanages for the Clatsop Native Americans. While Julie and Françoise never saw America, six of the Notre

Dame Sisters boarded the Indefatigable ship in Belgium, endured a months-long voyage to Astoria, Oregon, and carried out their vision of serving children in need.

In 1848, many families uprooted themselves to seek fortune in the California Gold Rush. Then, in 1850, typhoid swept the region, and the Sisters assumed nursing duties, caring especially for the orphans left in its wake. The following year, two Sisters traveled from Oregon to San Francisco to welcome four new members of their congregation from Belgium. Archbishop Joseph Alemany, O.P., saw that these women could provide what California needed and asked them to open schools in San José.

With faith as their guide, they purchased property in San José and built a school from salvaged structures: a frame house for living, an adobe classroom, and a barn transformed into a kitchen. On August 4, 1851, Notre Dame College opened on Santa Clara Street, offering day, boarding and college programs to girls of every background—Mexican, Irish, French Canadian and Native American. The Sisters lived simply, raised vegetables, kept a cow, stretched every dollar, learned Spanish, and expanded opportunity when education for girls remained far from guaranteed.

True to Julie's spirit, no child was turned away. The school grew, the curriculum evolved, and in 1868 it was chartered as the College of Notre Dame—the first college for women in California, which many celebrated as "the best school for young women in the West." In 1923, the college moved to the Ralston Mansion in Belmont. Originally founded as a women's institution, the college became coeducational in 1969 and now operates as Notre Dame de Namur University.

In 1928, Notre Dame High School, San José, moved from the Santa Clara Street campus to its present location at Second and Reed Streets. Over the following decades, Notre Dame opened schools across California—in Marysville, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Alameda, Redwood City, Petaluma, Carmel and Watsonville—and eventually expanded into Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

Saint Julie prayed that her Sisters would spread their vision throughout the world. Today, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, U.S. East-West Province, sponsor or co-sponsor 19 ministries across the United States. The Congregation has a global presence, serving on five continents, in 16 countries, and across 23 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

One hundred seventy-five years after those first fragile beginnings in San José, California, Saint Julie's prayer has come to fruition, and her vision continues to guide their work. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this monumental anniversary and commemorating the legacy of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in California.

RECOGNIZING DR. KARRI BRYANT IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Karri Bryant in