

HONORING THE PACE HIGH SCHOOL NAVY JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS PROGRAM

HON. JIMMY PATRONIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. PATRONIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to recognize and commend the exceptional accomplishments of the Pace High School Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program, a group of young leaders who continue to make Northwest Florida proud.

Recently, the cadets of Pace High School NJROTC competed at the NJROTC National Championship held in Pensacola, Florida, where they earned an outstanding second place finish among the very best programs in the Nation. This achievement reflects not only their hard work and determination, but also the countless hours of preparation, discipline, and teamwork they have demonstrated throughout the year.

The NJROTC program is a nationally respected initiative dedicated to developing leadership, citizenship, and character among high school students. With more than 580 units across the country, only a select number advance through rigorous regional competitions to reach the national stage. Pace High School's continued success at this level is a clear testament to the strength and consistency of its program. It also reflects the spirit of Northwest Florida's proud military tradition, where homegrown talent rises to meet the highest standards of service, leadership, and excellence.

Over the past five years, Pace High School NJROTC has distinguished itself as a national powerhouse, earning three national championships and multiple top three finishes, including this year's impressive second-place result. This sustained excellence speaks volumes about the commitment of the cadets, the leadership of their instructors, and the strong support of their school and community.

I am especially proud of these cadets. They exemplify the very best of Northwest Florida and act as outstanding ambassadors for Pace High School, Santa Rosa County, and the State of Florida.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Pace High School NJROTC cadets, their instructors, and their leadership team on this extraordinary accomplishment. I wish them continued success as they carry forward this proud tradition of excellence.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDANT JAMES EMORY MACE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Carolinians are grateful to express appreciation for the life of Commandant James Emory Mace, Sr., of Hampton County. He not only served our Nation as a decorated Army Officer but was the beloved father of Congresswoman NANCY MACE. I include in the

RECORD the following obituary provided by The Citadel Alumni Association:

J. EMORY MACE, SR., '63

James Emory Mace, Sr., of Mount Pleasant, the decorated Army officer who led The Citadel through a dramatic transition from an all-male institution to a co-ed military college, has died. He was 85.

Mace, a Vietnam War veteran, was among the most decorated graduates in The Citadel's history. He served as the school's commandant from 1997 to 2005—a period marked by cultural upheaval, internal reforms and national scrutiny.

Mace took over the role in February 1997, months after the first woman, Shannon Faulkner, enrolled at the formerly all-male military college following a protracted legal battle that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

While Faulkner's stay was brief, his daughter, now-U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace, would eventually succeed in becoming the school's first female graduate.

She confirmed his death on the night of April 14. A cause was not immediately announced.

"Rest in peace, Dad. I love you and I'll see you again," she wrote on social media the following morning.

As commandant, Mace moved quickly to reshape cadet life. Known for his blunt, disciplined leadership style, he implemented sweeping reforms: prohibiting harassment during meals and study periods, eliminating sophomore rank authority over freshmen, banning physical contact with first-year cadets, limiting "knob knowledge" requirements and shortening the military orientation period.

In 1997, cadets lived by a new Citadel creed written by Mace. It read, in part: "I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor and high esprit de corps of The Citadel and the South Carolina Corps of Cadets . . . Under no circumstances will I ever embarrass The Citadel and the South Carolina Corps of Cadets."

The changes marked a significant shift in the school's culture as it worked to integrate women into a traditionally rigid system, including his daughter.

He would hold the role as third-in-command at the school for eight years.

When he told the school's board of visitors he was stepping down, he said he had accomplished what he came to do—help men and women cadets coexist at the college.

"I feel I made a small difference in the life of The Citadel," Mace said in 2005 when announcing his retirement.

That year, when state lawmakers recognized Mace for his contributions at the state's military college, the resolution noted that under his leadership some 95 women had graduated from the Corps of Cadets.

The year Mace retired as commandant, the 1,900-member body included about 120 women.

Born in Hampton County, Mace attended The Citadel and earned the nickname "Bulldog." He graduated in 1963.

He became something of a living legend. In her memoir, Nancy Mace wrote that her father built a near-mythic reputation at The Citadel for his extreme backwoods antics, including poaching alligators to pay for school and using them to intimidate freshmen.

In one story, he allegedly threw a live alligator into a cadet's room to make a point about discipline, while in another, he chained a gator to the parade field overnight, leaving officers scrambling to remove it the next morning.

The stories, she wrote, cemented his image as both feared and legendary among cadets.

The persona he cultivated as a cadet was later reinforced by his record in combat.

RECOGNIZING APOSTLE FELIX REVILLS AND CELEBRATING HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEADERSHIP

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, with a heart overflowing with gratitude, reverence, and admiration, to recognize a man whose life has been a living sermon, Apostle Felix Revills, and to celebrate the 20th anniversary of his ascension to the leadership of Evangelical Faith Vision Ministries, Incorporated. An event to celebrate this singular event will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at Evangelical Faith Vision Ministries in Albany, Georgia.

There are leaders whose names are known; and then there are leaders whose lives are felt. Apostle Revills is the latter. For two decades, he has not only shepherded a congregation, he has tended the hearts of a people, mended broken spirits, and lit lamps in dark places. He leads a network of more than twenty churches across our Nation, and into the streets and homes of Port-au-Prince and the Dominican Republic, his ministry has reached far beyond brick and mortar. It has gone where the pain is raw, where hope is fragile, and where the promise of new beginnings is most desperately needed.

Born into a legacy of faith nurtured by Chief Apostle Dr. Isaiah and Dr. Ullainee S. Revills, Apostle Felix inherited more than a name, he inherited a charge to care. But he did not rest on inheritance alone. He answered his country's call in the United States Marine Corps, learned the discipline of service, and then translated that discipline into spiritual warfare against despair and injustice. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Albany State University, not merely to add letters after his name, but to steward resources wisely and create sustainable change for those he serves. I think of the faces who have walked through EFVM's doors and found God's Amazing Grace. They are the living, breathing proof that Apostle Revills' calling is not theoretical, it is incarnational.

Apostle Felix leads with a rare combination of fierce conviction and tender humility. He preaches with passion, yes, but he also sits at hospital bedsides, shows up at kitchen tables, and listens in the silent hours when prayer is the only currency left. He founded the New Visions Community Development Corporation and the Young Lions Mentoring Program because he knows that salvation is both spiritual and practical. He built institutions that teach, feed, mentor, and uplift, because faith without works is dead, and he will not allow emptiness to stand long where he can build.

He stands with his beloved First Lady Andrea Revills in a partnership forged in Christ and deep affection. Their marriage, a true covenant of friendship and sacrifice, has nurtured four remarkable children and welcomed the joy of a grandson. Their home has been a refuge for families, for weary ministers, and for young people seeking counsel. In their love you see the Gospel lived in the ordinary moments, in prayers before meals, in the laughter that follows mistakes, and in quiet steadiness when storms come.

Apostle Revills' voice reaches beyond pulpit and pew through EFVM's broadcast, "The Latter Rain," and through his written word in "Close the Door on Your Way Out." Yet even as his influence grows, he models a humility that insists the glory belongs to God alone. He carries honors without pride, responsibilities without show, and every success as an opportunity to lift someone else. There is a tenderness about his leadership that moves people to tears because it taps into something ancient and timeless: the longing to be seen, to be known, to be loved.

We thank him for his patriotism—for the years he served our Nation in uniform—and for bringing that same disciplined love into the civic life of Albany and beyond. We celebrate his membership in Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, his partnership with community initiatives, and his hands-on leadership in building institutions that endure. We honor his commitment to international outreach, where the love of Christ has crossed oceans to meet crying children and weary families.

Twenty years is more than a milestone—it is a mosaic of lives transformed. Every program launched, every sermon preached, every hand held in the night, every meal served, every life redirected toward hope is a tessera in that mosaic. Behind each one is a story of pain met with compassion, of isolation met with welcome, of despair met with faith-driven action.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian, and I along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring Apostle Felix Revills. We pledge to support the work of ministers like Apostle Felix Revills who bind community wounds with the salve of gospel love. We pray for continued health and wisdom for him and First Lady Andrea Revills. We pray for their children and their grandchild. We pray that Evangelical Faith Vision Ministries will continue to be a lighthouse for those tossed upon the seas of life.

May God grant Apostle Revills many more years of fruitful labor. May his hands never tire, his voice never falter, and his heart never lose its compassion. And may the thousands who have found refuge under his care continue to rise and carry forward the healing he has sown.

I honor Apostle Revills on this blessed 20th anniversary—a shepherd, a patriot, a husband, a father, and a servant whose life has summoned tears of grief and joy, for in both he has shown us the face of God's steadfast love.

HONORING JOSH MIRSKY FOR HIS EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT NEURODIVERSITY

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Josh Mirsky, who created the Neurodiversity Strength Flag. Sadly, many neurodivergent Americans feel that they don't belong and that the world is not designed for them. Too often, they face ignorance and stigma. They face bullying at

school, at work, and even in their families. They are picked last for sports teams and scolded by teachers for behaviors they themselves may not fully understand. They struggle in job interviews when employers misinterpret differences in communication styles—such as difficulty maintaining eye contact—as a lack of confidence or ability.

For Josh Mirsky, and other neurodivergent Americans, these challenges are not signs of personal weakness, but of the weakness of a society that has yet to appreciate diverse and unique ways of thinking and experiencing the world. The consequences of this misunderstanding can be devastating. Research shows that many neurodivergent individuals, particularly those with conditions such as autism or ADHD, experience significantly higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

It was for this reason that Josh created the Neurodiversity Strength Flag in October 2021—a flag of red, white, and gold. The design features two red bars at each end, a gold backdrop, and a large white diamond containing a red infinity symbol, accented with subtle gold highlights.

When asked to explain the symbolism of the flag, Josh said: "Red is a power color, representing the immense inner power and strength of neurodivergent people. We have survived and endured so much. In the diamond we see value, because deep down we have always known our worth—and when this flag flies high, the world will see it as well. In gold we see first place. For too long we have been seen and treated as second- or third-class citizens. We fly this flag unapologetically and say: no more. We are first class, just like the rest of the population. And in the infinity symbol we see the true emblem of neurodiversity—not a puzzle piece struggling to fit in, but an infinite spectrum of possibilities."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Josh Mirsky my constituent. His creativity, compassion, and dedication to uplifting others is exemplary. By creating the Neurodiversity Strength Flag, Josh has given a sense of pride and visibility to millions of neurodivergent individuals.

HONORING MR. VINCE SMITHERS FOR OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Vince Smithers on his 40 years of federal service.

Throughout his career, including at the Office of Personnel Management within the Healthcare and Insurance arena—Mr. Smithers has exemplified professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to those around him. As a federal warrant holder, he carried out his responsibilities with the highest ethical standards, playing a critical role in supporting the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, one of the largest employer sponsored health programs in the Nation.

Though he is known for his quiet demeanor, Mr. Smithers' presence has a way of uplifting every room he enters, his colleagues describe him as a true team player—thoughtful, kind, and dedicated to fostering a healthy work-life balance within the workplace.

I want to personally thank Mr. Smithers for the outstanding impact he has had on his colleagues, his workplace, and the many individuals he has served over the past four decades. His leadership and expertise reflect the very best of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Vince Smithers, honoring his service and the difference he has made in our communities. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement and in the years ahead.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. WYANETTA JOHNSON

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a proclamation honoring the life and legacy of Mrs. Wyanetta Johnson.

Whereas, Mrs. Wyanetta Johnson, born April 18, 1939, in Wyatt, Missouri, to Lem and Estel Gilliam Johnson, who grew up in Charleston, Missouri, and who departed this life on New Year's Day, January 1, 2026, at the age of 86, was a pioneering Black leader, a fierce and loving advocate for educational equity, and a woman whose tireless service transformed the lives of generations of children and families in the communities of Oak Park and River Forest, Illinois, in the 7th Congressional District; and

Whereas, Mrs. Johnson came from a family whose roots in racial justice predated the Civil Rights Movement itself—her family was engaged in justice efforts while working as sharecroppers in the Missouri Delta, and she carried that inheritance of courage and conviction with her when she and her husband Forrest moved to Oak Park in the early 1980s to be near their children and grandchildren, a move that set the course for more than four decades of transformative community advocacy; and

Whereas, in the late 1980s, Mrs. Johnson became a founding leader of the African American Parents for Purposeful Leadership in Education—known as APPLE—serving as both president and vice president of the organization over many years, building a grassroots network that achieved a sustained, daily presence in all of Oak Park's public schools, mentoring Black students during the school day and after school, providing homework assistance, career days, Saturday School, parent seminars, and overnight retreats—all born from her unwavering belief that every child deserved to be seen, supported, and given a full and fair opportunity to succeed; and

Whereas, APPLE maintained its own room at Oak Park and River Forest High School where all students were welcomed, counseled, tutored, and found rest, and where Mrs. Johnson—who did not hold a college degree—nonetheless counseled first-year teachers on classroom management and discipline, earning the deep respect of educators, administrators, and parents alike, because her authority came not from credentials but from decades of walking alongside children and families with unfailing love and practical wisdom; and

Whereas, Mrs. Johnson was a central and decisive force in advocating for the adoption of