

overall NCAA championship earned by a UCLA Bruins team in any sport. In 1978, UCLA Women's Basketball won the AIAW Division One/Large College tournament championship.

The team should be proud of their accomplishments, earning a number one rating in both the Associated Press and Coaches polls ranking women's basketball teams. UCLA women's basketball finished the season with an overall 37–1 record and a perfect 18–0 record, capturing the Big Ten conference championship. Led by coach Cori Close, the team built a strong core of student athletes who won week after week in games around the Nation and on the hallowed court at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion.

After being selected as the number two overall in the NCAA women's basketball tournament, the UCLA women went perfect, making it to the National Championship game against the South Carolina Gamecocks. UCLA dominated the Championship game in Phoenix, winning 79–51 and securing the title for themselves in dramatic fashion. This Championship was celebrated by the team and the greater UCLA community. To further highlight the accomplishments of this team, six senior players from the UCLA women's basketball team were selected in the 2026 Women's National Basketball Association draft, five in the first round, which is a WNBA record.

I would like to sincerely congratulate the UCLA women's basketball team once again on winning the national championship and wish them the best of luck next season. Their performance throughout this season was incredible and a tribute to the achievements of student athletes throughout the Nation. Go Bruins.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF KAREL ANN THARP

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Karel Ann Tharp (née Schubert), of Capistrano Beach, California, who passed away on November 2, 2025. In honor of her passing, I pay tribute to and reflect on the life she led and the impact she had on our Nation and community in California's 49th District.

Karel Ann Tharp is remembered for her vibrant spirit, kindness, fierce devotion to her friends and family, and her unwavering commitment to her community. Karel is survived by her devoted husband of 61 years, Edward Tharp III; their son, Edward Tharp IV and his wife, Amy; daughter, Laura Miles and her husband, Alan; and beloved grandson, Brian Tharp and his wife, Stephanie.

Karel attended Ganesh High School, where she was a dedicated student, spirited cheerleader, and member of the student government. After earning her degree from Cal Poly Pomona, she became a cornerstone of the administration office at La Paz Intermediate School. With 20 years of service, she is remembered by former students and faculty for her dedication, kindness, and work ethic.

Karel's passion for community and love for our country drew her to politics, where she be-

came a powerful force in local and national efforts to preserve our democracy. Through her mentorship, she shared her passion for civic duty with others and inspired countless young people to become politically engaged, creating a lasting impact on the community.

Karel is remembered for her radiant smile, legendary hospitality, and deep devotion to her friends and family. She nurtured meaningful relationships, maintaining many friendships for over 60 years. Whether with a new acquaintance or an old friend, Karel extended the same warmth and devotion to everyone she met. Karel cherished bringing people together over memorable meals at her dinner parties, creating lasting memories for all.

Karel's greatest joy was her family. She was a devoted mother and Nana. She understood the importance of showing up and did so enthusiastically. Karel was a constant fixture at every school event, sporting match, piano recital, and play. Karel is fondly remembered for being the loudest cheerleader in the stands for her grandson, Brian, supporting him at wrestling matches at San Clemente High School all the way to San Francisco State University.

Karel Ann Tharp exhibited a servant's heart and leaves behind a legacy of service, deep love, and commitment. She was a light to all who knew her and I share in the celebration of her life.

CONGRATULATING MILLA
SANTAPAOLA ON HER ACCEPT-
ANCE TO THE UNITED STATES
NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent and fellow Kentuckian, Milla Santapaola, upon her acceptance to the United States Naval Academy. Nominating young people to our service academies is one of my greatest honors as a Member of Congress.

As a future midshipman, she will soon embark on a life-changing journey, joining the greatest fighting force on the face of the earth, the United States military.

Milla has shown herself to be an exemplary candidate, securing offers from not only the Naval Academy but also the U.S. Air Force Academy. Throughout the entire application process, she showed herself to be a talented and well-rounded candidate. I do not doubt that she will succeed in her future academic and military career.

As a graduate of West Point, I can confidently say that the years I spent in a service academy were among the most transformative of my life. I am confident that Milla's time in Annapolis will be similarly impactful for her.

Guided by the Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps' mottos of "Semper Fortis" and "Semper Fidelis," the coming years will challenge Milla to grow in character, strengthen her leadership, and commit to a life of service to our Nation.

Again, I congratulate Milla Santapaola on this impressive accomplishment. Our Commonwealth and the entire Nation thank her for her willingness to serve in uniform and wish her the best in this next chapter.

HONORING JUDGE HERBERT E.
PHIPPS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and pay tribute to Judge Herbert E. Phipps—a distinguished jurist, devoted public servant, proud Morehouse alumnus, as well as a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and a dear friend whose life exemplifies courage, service, and fidelity to the rule of law. The Dougherty County Bar Association honored Judge Phipps during their annual Law Day Celebration on May 6, 2026, in Albany, Georgia.

Judge Phipps' journey began in a small rural community in Baker County, Georgia, where family, faith, and hard work shaped his character. From those roots he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Morehouse College, a Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where he served as an editor of the Law Review, and a Master of Laws in the Judicial Process from the University of Virginia School of Law.

After law school he returned to Southwest Georgia to join the practice of the legendary civil-rights attorney C.B. King, learning that the practice of law is a moral calling and that courage is an indispensable trait for lawyers and judges. He practiced as a solo practitioner from 1983 to 1995, served eight years as a part-time magistrate and associate judge of the Dougherty County State Court, seven years as judge of the Dougherty County Juvenile Court, and was appointed by Governor Zell Miller to the Dougherty Circuit Superior Court in 1995. In July 1999, Governor Roy Barnes appointed him to the Court of Appeals of Georgia; he was elected statewide to three six-year terms, served as a presiding judge beginning in 2010, and as chief judge from July 2013 through June 2015. Judge Phipps retired from the Court of Appeals in 2016.

Judge Phipps' leadership extends far beyond the bench. He has served as past chairman of the Board of Directors of SB&T Bank of Albany and Americus; on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Applesseed Center for Law and Justice; as past president of the Lawyers Club of Atlanta and the Dougherty Circuit Bar Association; and on Georgia's Judicial Nominating Commission, the Georgia Supreme Court Commission on Racial and Ethnic Bias, and the Georgia Indigent Defense Council Advisory Committee. He is a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church (Albany), Sigma Pi Phi (Delta Delta Boulé), The Inquiry Club, and the Old War Horse Lawyers Club, and has led numerous civic organizations in Albany, including the Albany Advocacy Resource Center and the Albany Sickle Cell Foundation.

His service has been recognized with many honors: the Randolph Thrower Lifetime Achievement Award, the Chief Justice Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award, the Logan E. Bleckley Distinguished Service Award, the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association "Guardian of Justice Award," the Nestor Award from the Georgia Legal History Foundation, the Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service, induction into the Society of Benchers of Case Western Reserve School of Law, the Case Western Reserve University School of

Law Centennial Medal, recognition as a Legal Legend by the Georgia Lawyer Chapter of the American Constitution Society, and an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School. His commencement address at Case Western in 2007, “Lawyers—the Guardians of Truth and Justice,” remains a testament to his faith in the profession.

Sustained by a devoted family, Judge Phipps is married to Connie Curry Phipps. They are the parents of Herbert E. Phipps, Jr. and India K. Epps (and son-in-law Will J. Epps), and proud grandparents of Zoë Olivia Epps and Evan James Epps.

This year, the Dougherty County Bar honored Judge Phipps on Law Day—a fitting tribute from colleagues and neighbors who have witnessed his decades of service. Judge Phipps has long called on lawyers and judges to speak with courage on today’s pressing social-justice issues, drawing lessons from the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the long struggle for equality. He reminds us that judges do not have the luxury of silence when justice is at stake. Judge Phipps has lived his life by the creed of former U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren: “Where there is injustice, we should correct it; where there is poverty, we should eliminate it; where there is corruption, we should stamp it out; where there is violence, we should punish it; where there is neglect, we should provide care; where there is war, we should restore peace; and wherever corrections are achieved, we should add them permanently to our storehouse of treasures.”

On a personal note, I have had the privilege of knowing Judge Phipps for over five decades. Our relationship began during my formative years as a civil rights lawyer, where I received training as an Earl Warren Fellow with

the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. I benefited from the mentorship of both Judge Phipps and C.B. King. Through their guidance, I learned the principles of justice, advocacy, and the unwavering commitment required to fight for civil rights, which have profoundly shaped my own career in public service. I am forever grateful for his fidelity and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia’s 2nd District in honoring the service of Judge Herbert E. Phipps. Judge Phipps’ life—from Baker County to Morehouse, from C.B. King’s law office to the Court of Appeals—inspires us all. For his wisdom on the bench, his steadfast leadership in the community, the warmth of his friendship, and the dignity with which he has served, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Judge Herbert E. Phipps and recognizing the extraordinary example he has set for future generations. His enduring legacy is one of unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and the empowerment of marginalized communities, inspiring generations of legal practitioners and activists to carry on the vital work of civil rights advocacy.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT
MAGALONG ON HIS ACCEPTANCE
TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent and fellow Ken-

tuckian, Robert Magalong, upon his acceptance to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Nominating young people to our service academies is one of my greatest honors as a Member of Congress.

As a future West Point cadet, he will soon embark on a life-changing journey, joining the greatest fighting force on the face of the earth, the United States military.

Throughout the entire application process, Robert showed himself to be a talented and well-rounded candidate. I do not doubt that he will succeed in his future academic and military career.

As a graduate of West Point, I can confidently say that the years I spent in a service academy were among the most transformative of my life. I am confident that Robert’s time at this incredible institution will be similarly impactful for him.

Guided by the Army’s motto of “This We’ll Defend,” the coming years will challenge Robert to grow in character, strengthen his leadership, and commit to a life of service to our Nation.

Again, I congratulate Robert Magalong on this impressive accomplishment. Our Commonwealth and the entire Nation thank him for his willingness to serve in uniform and wish him the best in this next chapter. Go Army.