

Under his leadership, the Lee County School System navigated the complexities of desegregation with integrity and compassion. He opened the schoolhouse doors wider—welcoming students with disabilities into the public school system, expanding educational opportunities for all children regardless of background, and guiding the district through a period of significant growth. The school system he helped shape stands today as one of Georgia's most respected—a living testament to his vision and his values.

But to speak of Dr. Clay only in terms of policy and administration would be to miss something essential about the man. He was, at his core, a farmer who loved the land. He spoke fondly of childhood days spent swimming in Choakee Creek, fishing, and working alongside his family. Clay Spring Farms was not simply a place he lived—it was an expression of who he was. He understood that the health of a community is rooted in the health of its families, its land, and its traditions.

On June 13, 1954, Bobby Clay married the love of his life, Betty Ann Pace Clay. Their partnership spanned 67 years—a union of faith, devotion, and shared purpose that endured until Betty Ann's passing in 2021. Together they built a home known for its warmth, its hospitality, and its deep love of family. They were faithful members of DeSoto Baptist Church, where they served for many years and where their faith was as much a part of daily life as the Georgia soil beneath their feet.

In addition to his work in education, Dr. Clay served his community through longtime membership on the Board of Health, demonstrating that his commitment to public service extended beyond the schoolhouse. He was honored as a member of the Lee County High School Distinguished Alumni Program—a recognition that only scratched the surface of what he meant to the people of that county. His truly lived his life by the words: "To educate a man is to educate a citizen. To serve your community is to serve your God."

Dr. Clay was preceded in death by his beloved wife Betty Ann; his son, Robert A. Clay, III; grandson Zachary Clay Peak; and son-in-law Sidney Clinton Peak. He is survived by his daughters, Carol Ann Clay Peak of Lee County and Melody Clay Sheffield of Albany; his grandson James Clay Sheffield; his sister Evelyn Clay Hicks of Marietta; and a wide circle of nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who carry his memory forward.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representative to join my wife Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring that life and legacy of Dr. Robert "Bobby" Clay, Jr. His is the biography of rural Georgia at its best. He was a man who never forgot where he came from, never stopped working for the people around him, and never wavered in his conviction that every child deserved a good education and every community deserved good leadership. He lived 98 years, and he used every one of them well.

He was an educator, farmer, public servant, husband, father, and devoted son of Lee County, Georgia. May his family find comfort in the knowledge that his work endures, and that the State of Georgia, the Nation, and the world is better because of him.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID  
PAUL BONNER

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. David Paul Bonner, who recently passed away at the age of 73. Dave was a beloved member of the Concord, New Hampshire community, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Dave was born and raised in Concord, where he chose to live his entire life alongside his wife and closest friend, Paula. Countless individuals in the community came to know him over the years, and he was known by many as the "unofficial mayor" of Concord. He carried himself with an infectious personality and a genuine love and care for others, paired with a witty spirit and a remarkable gift for storytelling.

Dave was a proud veteran of the United States Army and spent time stationed in Germany. He was also a beloved mail carrier for the USPS in Concord and worked as a taxi driver, a Hampton Beach nightclub bouncer, and a corrections officer over the years. His hard work and resilience came from a passionate commitment to serve his community and provide for his family.

Aside from his work, Dave was always passionate about sports and proved to be a versatile, multi-sport athlete, trying his hand at skiing, football, hockey, and much more. He was a fixture at the Green Street Community Center in Concord every Sunday, and was an avid basketball player and referee for much of his adulthood. When not playing or officiating, he was often in the stands watching games ranging from the youth to the collegiate level.

He also had a genuine passion for the arts, especially theatre and music. He frequented the Ogunquit Playhouse for productions in the summer and would often listen to music by the likes of Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, and Tom Rush. Much like his strong work ethic and tender compassion, his diverse interests endeared him to his many friends and loved ones.

Dave leaves behind his wife, Paula, and their three children, Matt, Becky, and Luke. His children shared his passion for sports and were incredible athletes and students, earning college scholarships for basketball. He also leaves behind seven grandchildren. Those who knew Dave understood that he was immensely proud of his family and cherished them every day of his life. They shared that same love and affection for him.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's 1st Congressional District, I send my deepest condolences to the Bonner family and all of Dave's loved ones. As they grieve their loss, we know that Dave's abounding love, passion for sports and the arts, hard work, and service to his country and community are an inspiring example for all of us to follow. Although he will be dearly missed, his memory lives on in our communities through all the people whose lives he touched over the years. The stories he told and the memories he shared with those around him will endure for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY PRESCRIPTION  
AND COMPOUNDING PHARMACY'S  
100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. ADAM GRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. GRAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valley Prescription and Compounding Pharmacy in Merced, California, on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary of service.

Founded by George P. Keller and William E. McDermott of Martinez, and joined by Ernest Green of Merced and Pharmacist Stanley Thomas, The Valley Drug Company was more than just a pharmacy. They were best known for the cameras and camera equipment they provided to visitors to Yosemite National Park. Their fountain and lunch counter was a local favorite, where Erma Porter made her delicious and popular sandwiches, pies, and old-fashioned sodas.

After Ernest retired in 1970 and Thomas passed away, the Valley Drug Store was renamed Valley Prescription Pharmacy and relocated next to the County Hospital. Since then, the pharmacy has maintained its reputation for quality service, first with owner Ron Krein in 1981 and now with owner Jeff Hill, who has continued the tradition of keeping the drug store family owned.

It is my privilege to recognize Valley Prescription and Compounding Pharmacy as they enter their second 100 years with dedication, diligence, and devotion to the people of Merced County.

RECOGNIZING FIREFIGHTER/  
INSPECTOR JOHN BEEBE

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 14, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding contributions of Port Richey Firefighter/Inspector John Beebe for his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to public safety and municipal service.

Firefighter/Inspector Beebe has consistently demonstrated a level of initiative and work ethic that reflects great credit upon himself and the City of Port Richey. In addition to his core responsibilities, he plays a vital role in ensuring the safety and reliability of the city's fire protection infrastructure through the testing and maintenance of every fire hydrant within the municipal water system. Beyond these essential duties, Firefighter/Inspector Beebe actively supports emergency operations, assisting with everyday calls for service, brush fires, and emergency boat responses in the Gulf. His willingness to respond wherever needed underscores his deep commitment to protecting both residents and visitors alike.

Firefighter/Inspector Beebe has also elevated the city's fire inspection program by ensuring that every business is inspected annually, strengthening public safety and compliance across the community. In coordination with the building department, he further assists in tracking business tax receipts, helping to ensure that local businesses remain properly

registered and in compliance with city requirements. Although assigned to the fire department, Firefighter/Inspector Beebe is widely recognized for his willingness to assist every department within the City of Port Richey. He is a dependable team player who consistently offers thoughtful feedback, constructive ideas, and collaborative support wherever it is needed.

Equally important, Firefighter/Inspector Beebe approaches every task with a positive attitude and a steady smile, regardless of the challenge at hand. His professionalism, optimism, and dedication make him a valued member of the city workforce and a model of public service.

I commend Firefighter/Inspector John Beebe for his outstanding service to the residents of Florida's 12th Congressional District and proudly recognize him as a 2026 First Responder of the Year. His commitment, versatility, and positive spirit exemplify the very best of public service.

RECOGNIZING THE 2026 HONOREES  
FOR THE BROWARD SENIOR  
HALL OF FAME

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2026*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Representative DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, to recognize and celebrate the honorees of the 42nd Annual Dr. Nan S. Hutchison Broward Senior Hall of Fame, an esteemed tradition made possible through the tireless efforts of the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County, an organization committed to improving the lives of older adults throughout our community.

The Area Agency on Aging of Broward County is part of a statewide network of 11 Area Agencies on Aging serving 67 counties across Florida. These agencies are tasked with coordinating a wide array of programs and services designed to help seniors live safely, independently, and with dignity in their own homes and communities. From meal delivery and transportation assistance to caregiver support and health education, the Agency plays a pivotal role in addressing the needs of our aging population.

Each year, the Broward Senior Hall of Fame honors exemplary residents aged 60 and older who have selflessly dedicated five or more years to volunteer service in Broward County. These individuals embody the spirit of civic engagement and community service that strengthens the social fabric of our region.

I include in the RECORD the names of this year's distinguished honorees:

The Honorable Mikkie Belvedere, Michael Brodie, Mayor Angelo Castillo, the Honorable Roy Gold, Deacon Lorna Goodison, the Honorable Bob Mayersohn, Dr. Rudy Moise, Rosalind "Roz" Perlmutter, Silvia Quintana, and Barry Solomon.

Their contributions have had a lasting impact on the community, from mentoring young people and supporting local nonprofits to expanding access to healthcare and standing up for vulnerable residents. Their dedication is both admirable and truly inspiring.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Charlotte Mather-Taylor, CEO

of the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County, for her outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment to serving the community. Through her vision and dedication, the Agency has continued to strengthen its impact and ensure that seniors throughout Broward County receive the care, support, and recognition they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Florida's 23rd and 25th Congressional Districts, we ask our colleagues to join us in congratulating these outstanding individuals for their extraordinary volunteerism and in recognizing the indispensable role the Area Agency on Aging of Broward County plays in supporting, celebrating, and advocating for our senior community.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING AI  
SCHELLINGER

**HON. RYAN K. ZINKE**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2026*

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Al Schellinger from Flathead Valley, Montana, for a lifetime of leadership and service to the people and communities of Northwest Montana.

Mr. Schellinger, president of Schellinger Construction Company, was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Montana Contractors Association in recognition of his contributions to Montana's construction industry, his support for local communities, and his longstanding commitment to Montana workers.

Schellinger Construction began as a family construction business in 1956 and, over time, grew into one of the most respected construction companies in our great state. After taking over the company in the early 1980s, Al Schellinger helped shape the infrastructure and growth of Montana.

During the decline of the local logging industry, Mr. Schellinger successfully transitioned the company toward road and highway construction, positioning Schellinger Construction for long-term success while continuing to meet the needs of Montana's communities. The expansion of Schellinger Construction not only laid the foundation for a lasting impact across our state but also created jobs and opportunities for hardworking Montanans. Under Al Schellinger's leadership, the company has remained committed to the people behind its success, taking pride in its employees and the strong workforce that continues to carry the company forward today.

Mr. Schellinger's dedication to our Montana communities extends far beyond his own company. Whether supporting 4-H programs, rallying behind local youth initiatives, or sponsoring scholarships through Montana State University, Mr. Schellinger has consistently invested in the next generation. His generosity has also reached those who serve and protect our communities—contributing to local law enforcement and supporting air ambulance services that provide critical, life-saving care to Montanans in some of their most vulnerable moments. Additionally, he remained actively involved with the Montana Contractors Association for decades, serving as MCA President in 1993 and advocating for fair wages and

strong opportunities for construction workers across our state.

Mr. Speaker, Al Schellinger's life reflects the values that built Montana and continues to define our state today: hard work, leadership, and commitment to our neighbors. Whether mentoring the next generation or helping build the roads and infrastructure that connect our communities, Al Schellinger has left an undeniable mark on Montana.

RECOGNIZING AIDAN OLDENBURG

**HON. BRAD FINSTAD**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2026*

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Olympian and southern Minnesota native, Aidan Oldenburg, on his remarkable performance at the 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milano Cortina, Italy.

Aidan started his curling career at age 10, growing as a competitor and athlete over the years. Growing up in Mapleton and graduating from Minnesota State University, Mankato, he truly represents the heart and talent within Minnesota's 1st Congressional District.

Aidan and his team represented the United States on the world stage at both the World Championships last August and the Olympic games earlier this year. In his first Olympic appearance, Aidan helped the U.S. Men's Curling Team secure a fifth-place finish.

Aidan's skill and determination have inspired us all. I congratulate him on his 2026 Olympic performance. His family, friends, teammates, and fellow southern Minnesotans could not be prouder of him.

HONORING CATHERINE LAVELLE  
KESSMEIER

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2026*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Catherine Lavelle Kessmeier for her 30 years of outstanding federal service, including over 25 years as a civilian attorney for the Department of the Navy (DON) Office of the General Counsel (OGC).

Since she began her distinguished career with DON OGC in 1999, Ms. Kessmeier has held several attorney positions. Notably, she became a member of the Senior Executive Service in January 2013. In August 2021, she was selected to serve as the Principal Deputy General Counsel (PDGC), the most senior career attorney position within the DON. During her tenure as the PDGC, she twice served as the Acting General Counsel of the Navy—a presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed position—from August 2021 to February 2022, and from January 2025 to July 2025.

Ms. Kessmeier distinguished herself as an exceptional and resilient attorney, including leading the DON's legal response to the unprecedented environmental crisis associated with the Red Hill fuel release and advising Department of Defense and DON senior leaders on numerous international, fiscal, and contracting law matters associated with the trilateral defense partnership between Australia,