

and ensure safer and cleaner neighborhoods for future generations. This achievement reflects the dedication and expertise of the Sacramento Area Sewer District's leadership, engineers, field crews, and community partners who continue to work tirelessly to deliver essential services to the people of Sacramento County. Their efforts have strengthened regional infrastructure while preserving the natural resources that are vital to California's future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Sacramento Area Sewer District for its leadership and continued commitment to advancing public health, environmental protection, and infrastructure modernization through its Septic-to-Sewer Conversion Projects.

COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST CENTRAL KANSAS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY CORPORATION

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation's founding. For 60 years now, ECKAN has worked tirelessly to support the stability, health, and engagement of individuals and families across East Central Kansas.

Established on May 6, 1966, ECKAN is one of eight community action agencies in Kansas. Since its founding, ECKAN has been driven by a simple vision—showing our neighbors in East Central Kansas that their community cares.

While this philosophy has always manifested itself in addressing poverty, ECKAN has never shied away from evolving. Originally operated under a traditional service-delivery model, ECKAN has shifted to a collaborative, inclusive approach focused on shared purpose and collective impact.

Since 1966, the success of ECKAN and the services it provides has continued to expand. Serving a 16-county region including Kansas' Third District, ECKAN's Head Start and Early Head Start programs promote school readiness, family health, and childcare partnerships. ECKAN also operates nine county community centers and a regional food recovery warehouse, offering emergency assistance, food and supply distributions, housing vouchers, and more. ECKAN also operates programs that reduce energy costs for eligible households, administer Housing Choice Vouchers, and manage affordable rental units.

For 60 years, ECKAN has helped increase access to resources, improve housing stability, and reduce energy burdens for lower-income families. The importance of the organization's work cannot be overstated, and I look forward to seeing the great strides that ECKAN and the people it serves continue to make.

HONORING ENRIQUE ACOSTA GONZALEZ

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Enrique Acosta Gonzalez as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Military Appreciation Month. Enrique Acosta Gonzalez is the CEO of Triad Leadership Solutions, LLC, and has served as an executive, veteran and advocate, board member, non-profit administrator, speaker, mentor, coach, and avid volunteer. Over the past 25 years, Enrique has held numerous executive, advisory, and senior positions while serving in both the United States Navy and the civilian sector. Through education and training, he helped strengthen organizations by providing sound decision support and fostering open communication at all levels. Enrique also helped formulate and implement policies on morale, welfare, job satisfaction, discipline, and personnel training.

He is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He was named the 2013, 2014, and 2017 Federal Mentor of the Year, and is the recipient of the inaugural 2014 Chief John Dungan, Jr., Oceanographer of the Navy Award for exceptional leadership. He was also awarded the Arnold Fletcher Award and inducted into the SALUTE national honors society for his academic achievements.

He is a multi-award-winning podcaster with shows focusing on leadership development and career success. He was named the Active Duty, Veteran & Military Spouse Entrepreneur Awards' Media Professional of the Year by The Rosie Network and No. 3 of the Top 50 Leadership Podcasts. His down-to-earth approach to leadership has gained him notoriety as one of the most sought-after leadership trainers.

Enrique has been an active mentor to transitioning service members for nine years as part of the Camaraderie Foundation's Military Leadership Program (MLP). His impact on our Veteran community has been far-reaching, as he serves as a keynote speaker, trainer, and host for military-centered activities in Florida's 9th Congressional District. He also provides complimentary dress shirts to Veterans in preparation for job interviews through his podcast giveback program and is serving as the inaugural Mr. Military Florida for 2026.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN H. RUTHERFORD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, due to a vote happening in Committee, I missed the following Roll Call Votes on April 22, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 130.

HONORING THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF HALIFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the enduring legacy of the Johnson Hill School and the Eastman School, and I recognize the continued commitment of Halifax County Schools to educational excellence, community empowerment, and opportunity for future generations.

The story of Eastman began in 1894 with the opening of Johnson Hill School, a modest one-room wooden schoolhouse located along a rural road in Halifax County. Though small in size, the school stood as a powerful symbol of hope and determination for Black children seeking access to education during a time of limited opportunity.

Under the leadership of the school's first principal, Miss Frankie B. Myrick, Johnson Hill School became the foundation of a proud educational tradition. Her words still reflect the spirit of the Halifax County Schools today: "We simply worked it up from the ground and prayed it down from the skies."

In 1920, through the combined efforts of local families, community leaders, public support, and philanthropic contributions, Eastman School was established. Support from George Eastman, Julius Rosenwald, and the Black community helped create one of the region's most significant rural Black schools. As enrollment and community pride grew, Eastman expanded into a center of learning, culture, and leadership.

Under the leadership of Principal W.A. Holmes beginning in 1934, Eastman entered a period of extraordinary growth. New classrooms, vocational facilities, teacher housing, and beautification projects transformed the campus into a model of rural Black education in North Carolina. Enrollment eventually grew to nearly 600 students with a faculty of 14 teachers.

Though the historic school closed in 2009 following consolidation, the spirit and legacy of Eastman endured within the Halifax County community.

That legacy entered a new chapter in 2016 under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Eric Cunningham and the Halifax County Board of Education. Through years of planning, community engagement, and investment, the vision for Eastman Leadership Academy became a reality when Halifax County Schools was awarded the needs based public school grant. In December 2022, Halifax County Schools broke ground on a \$52.9 million state-of-the-art Pre-K through 8 facility dedicated to preparing students for future success while honoring the school's historic roots.

On June 2, 2026, that dream will become a reality and the community will gather once again to celebrate the ribbon-cutting of Eastman Leadership Academy and the school will open for students August 24, 2026.

We honor the generations of educators, students, families, and community members whose faith and perseverance made this moment possible. May Eastman Leadership Academy continue to stand as a symbol of resilience, excellence, and opportunity for Halifax County and for generations yet to come.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE EZE

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christine Eze for earning one of this year's JeffCo Prosperity Partners Graduate Awards.

The Graduate Awards are granted to recognize individuals of the JeffCo Prosperity Partners (JPP) Program and Head Start families who reach significant milestones in education, employment, and economic opportunity. The recipients must successfully complete the JPP Program and develop skills in career development, academics, and financial literacy.

This year's Graduate Award honorees are recognized for their outstanding determination and hard work during the JPP Program. Receiving this award demonstrates dedication to personal growth, distinguishing their drive for professional development and improving their lives on a multigenerational level.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's 7th Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Christine Eze on their incredible accomplishments and for receiving the 2026 JeffCo Prosperity Partners Graduate Award.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
VALERIE BARONE

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valerie Barone as she retires from the City of Concord.

Valerie has worked diligently to support Concord residents and city staff in her role as City Manager. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated her steadfast commitment to service, starting her career as a Community Development Specialist with the U.S. Peace Corps, serving in the Philippines. In 2008, she joined the City of Concord as Assistant City Manager. She was appointed as interim City Manager in 2012 and began serving as City Manager in 2013.

During her tenure, Valerie worked tirelessly to build a vibrant community in the City of Concord and guided the city as it continued to grow and develop. She was critical in promoting the city's economic growth, helping to establish Visit Concord, turning the Toyota Pavilion into a revenue generator for the region, helping the city to invest \$27 million provided through the American Rescue Plan to strengthen the city's infrastructure and non-profits, overseeing the development of the Veranda shopping center, and fostering the city's cultural landscape by preserving Concord's Music and Market concerts and public art installations through Creative Concord. Additionally, Valerie championed numerous regional initiatives, allowing Concord to serve as a leader in programs such as the Central County Family Justice Center, the County's CORE Program, and the County's A3 program. Her leadership was critical as she guided the city through the COVID-19 pandemic and budget challenges, helping the city to stabilize its

budget and driving infrastructure improvements throughout the city.

Valerie's leadership has been key in improving quality of life for Concord residents and helping the city to thrive. Her work has left an indelible impact on her neighbors and peers. Please join me in congratulating Valerie Barone on her retirement after 38 years of devoted public service.

RECOGNIZING THE WEST WEBSTER
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSO-
CIATION ON ITS 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY

HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the West Webster Volunteer Firemen's Association as it celebrates 100 years of dedicated service to the Webster community and Monroe County, New York.

Established in 1926 by a group of committed local volunteers, the West Webster Volunteer Firemen's Association was founded to provide reliable emergency protection to a rapidly growing community. Over the past century, the organization has grown into a highly respected fire service institution, while remaining proudly volunteer-led and deeply rooted in the spirit of public service and community responsibility.

For generations, the firefighters and volunteers of West Webster have answered emergency calls with courage, professionalism, and compassion. Whether responding to fires, medical emergencies, rescue operations, or marine incidents along Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay, these dedicated men and women have consistently placed the safety and wellbeing of their neighbors above their own. Their service reflects the highest ideals of volunteerism and civic duty.

The Association's impact extends far beyond emergency response. Through fire prevention education, community outreach, youth engagement, and participation in local events, West Webster firefighters have built lasting relationships throughout the community and strengthened the bonds that make Webster such a special place to call home. Their century of service stands as a powerful testament to the enduring importance of volunteer fire departments across our Nation.

It is with great pride and appreciation that I recognize the West Webster Volunteer Firemen's Association on the occasion of its 100th anniversary. I thank all current and former firefighters, volunteers, officers, and their families for a century of extraordinary service, sacrifice, and dedication to the people of Webster, and I wish the Association continued success for generations to come.

HONORING DR. LAWREN M. LONG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr.

Lawren M. Long of Jackson, Mississippi, a distinguished public servant, scholar, and community advocate whose leadership continues to make a meaningful impact across our state and Nation.

Dr. Long is a proud native of Jackson and a graduate of Jackson State University, where she earned both her Bachelor of Business Administration and her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration. She also holds a Master of Public Administration and a Graduate Certificate in Leadership from Belhaven University. Her academic journey reflects a deep commitment to advancing equity and opportunity through education.

She currently serves as the Eric Holder Public Policy Program Director and Assistant Professor of Political Science at Tougaloo College, where she is shaping the next generation of leaders. In addition, she serves as the National Policy Coordinator for Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, working to advance policies that support workers and strengthen economic justice nationwide. Her research and advocacy focus on critical issues such as poverty, food justice, public health, and community development.

Dr. Long's leadership extends beyond academia. She has played a key role in securing more than \$12 million in funding to support initiatives across Jackson and the Mississippi Delta. She has also organized community programs, including food distributions, mentorship efforts, and civic engagement initiatives. She remains actively involved in service through leadership roles in several organizations, reflecting a strong commitment to uplifting communities and expanding opportunities.

Her work has earned her recognition as a rising leader, and she continues to inspire through her dedication, vision, and service. As a mother, educator, and advocate, Dr. Long represents the very best of Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Lawren M. Long for her outstanding contributions and her continued service to the people of Mississippi and this Nation.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN
JEREMY LAM

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Senior Airman Jeremy Lam as a distinguished leader in Central Florida for Military Appreciation Month. Senior Airman Jeremy Lam served in the United States Air Force for eight years, two months, and nine days as a Far East Chinese Mandarin Crypto linguist for the National Security Agency at Fort George Meade, Maryland, from October 12, 1993, to December 21, 2001.

Prior to his military career, he graduated in the top 10 percent of his class from Dr. Phillips High School on May 4, 1993. He got involved in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps and the German Club and played violin in the orchestra. He is also a Troop 6 Eagle Scout from St. Luke's United Methodist Church, where he currently serves as a committee member, Merit Badge coordinator, Eagle Scout mentor, and Eagle Scout