

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

Project Committee member for the Eagle Empire District Central Florida Council.

He is a department chair for Mission and Evangelism for the Orlando Chinese Baptist Church under Pastor Sean Ma and is an avid volunteer with the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 16 as a chapter service officer, helping over 400 veterans process their VA claims for free under the mentorship of Commander Laymond Rose. He also volunteers at the FDVA Alywn C. Cashe Nursing Home, where he conducts monthly bingo. He is also a member of the Wounded Warrior Project and serves as the team lead for snacks for Soldiers' Angels.

RECOGNIZING AMBER STOKES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 29, 2026

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

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recipients must successfully complete the JPP Program and develop skills in career development, academics, and financial literacy.

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