

MiraCosta Community College and the greater Community.

Dr. Cooke began her career in higher education as a biology and biotechnology faculty member after earning her Ph.D. in Biology from Georgetown University. Throughout her 30-year career, she has served as a department chair, dean, associate vice chancellor, and president before joining MiraCosta College in 2015.

Under Dr. Cooke's leadership, MiraCosta College has implemented several innovative programs, including creating California's first biomanufacturing bachelor's degree at a community college. Under her leadership, graduation and transfer rates have significantly improved as she led the college to expand student support services to close equity gaps. The college was nationally recognized for this accomplishment as an Achieving the Dream Leader College and Aspen Prize for Excellence semi-finalist. Throughout her tenure, MiraCosta brought in nearly \$46 million in state and federal grants to support college programs and students and passed a transformative \$455 million facilities bond (Measure MM), modernizing classrooms and infrastructure.

Dr. Cooke's leadership has extended to the state level. In 2015, she chaired the Statewide Task Force on Workforce and a Strong Economy, leading to an ongoing annual investment of over \$260 million from the California State Legislature to enhance California community college career education.

Dr. Cooke has served as the Chair of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), an officer of the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Association (CCCBA), and an officer of the California Community Colleges CEO Board. She has also served on the executive committee of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and on the boards of Biocom and local chambers of commerce.

Dr. Cooke's incredible leadership has been widely recognized. Her accolades include recognitions from the San Diego Business Journal in their Women Who Mean Business and Top 50 Women of Influence awards, as well as being included in the San Diego Top 500 List and the NAACP's Salute to Women of Color. Dr. Cooke was also named the CEO Awardee for the Pacific Region by the American Association of Community College Trustees.

Dr. Cooke's dedication to ensuring every student has the right to succeed has created a lasting impact on students, her colleagues, and the greater community. Her leadership and service will be remembered through the Dr. Sunita "Sunny" Cooke Legacy Fund, continuing her impact on the College and the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Sunita "Sunny" Cooke for her remarkable career and profound impact on MiraCosta College and the greater San Diego community. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication and deep commitment to student success. We wish her all the best as she enters retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not present for Roll Call Votes on June 8, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 208, and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL SARAH RUSS OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF CRANK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate a distinguished member of the United States Air Force, Brigadier General Sarah Russ, on her retirement after 30-plus years of military service.

Sarah began her public service career in 1994 as a distinguished graduate of the Officer Training School. In 2004, she transitioned to the Air Force Reserve and has served as an Air Attaché at three U.S. Embassies in the Indo-Pacific region. General Russ has also spent a significant amount of her career stationed in Colorado Springs, including as an Assistant Professor at the Air Force Academy. Sarah would go on to serve more than 10 years here, with multiple assignments to NORAD/NORTHCOM and became an instrumental part in establishing U.S. Space Command as a member of the initial cadre of Battle Watch Commanders.

In addition to her commendable military career, Sarah is remembered by her colleagues in the Air Force as an invaluable mentor. Her selflessness, willingness to give back, and dedication to our local community only add to her distinguished service record.

Today, I stand to not only honor but thank Brigadier General Sarah Russ for her selfless service to our great Nation, and I wish her nothing but the best in her transition to civilian life.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ADST

HON. AMI BERA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training (ADST), a non-partisan, non-governmental educational organization, that has been introducing Americans across the country to our Nation's diplomatic history for 40 years through its diplomatic oral history collection, book program, and other educational and outreach initiatives.

In 1986, ADST began as the vision of then-Director of the Foreign Service Institute Stephen Low and Ambassador Richard Parker, with a mission to support the Institute's work. At the same time, newly retired Foreign Serv-

ice Officer Charles Stuart Kennedy conceived the idea of recording oral histories of retired American diplomats and began capturing their experiences and insights. In 1988, Parker invited Kennedy to incorporate his oral history program into the Association's work, and ADST, as we know it today, was formed.

In 1995, the ADST-DACOR book program was launched as a "service to the Foreign Service." The goal was to help Foreign Service Officers write and publish books about diplomacy. Margery Boichel Thompson became ADST's Publishing Director, and under her expert guidance, the ADST-DACOR Diplomats and Diplomacy Book Series was born. The Memoirs and Occasional Papers series soon followed, then ADST's own imprint: Arlington Hall Press. Under Thompson's leadership, the ADST book program has grown into a respected source of books on diplomacy and the Foreign Service, with over 120 books, including many award winners.

For more than three decades, the Foreign Affairs Oral History Program has been ADST's flagship initiative. With more than 3,100 oral histories, publicly available on the ADST website and at the Library of Congress, it captures over 100 years of U.S. diplomatic history and engagement with the world. Rich in historical insights and lessons learned, the archive has become a national treasure for congressional offices, current and aspiring diplomats, scholars, educators, students, and the broader American public.

For four decades, the diplomatic practitioners and oral history experts who make up the ADST team and the hundreds of interns they have taken under their wings have helped preserve the experiences of American diplomacy for future generations.

Whether through collecting and archiving oral history accounts, editing book manuscripts, sharing our Nation's diplomatic history with the American public, or supporting the National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC), ADST's work grew from a simple vision into a dedicated and professional foreign affairs organization. With deep optimism, ADST will carry its mission forward into the next 40 years, ensuring the experiences and lessons of American diplomacy continue to be collected, preserved, and shared.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 8, 2026, I missed votes due to a personal matter. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 208; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5 JUSTIN A. KARLS

HON. MATT VAN EPPS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mr. VAN EPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Chief Warrant Officer 5 Justin A. Karls of the United States

Army on the occasion of his retirement after 30 years of distinguished and selfless service to our Nation.

Justin's story is one of extraordinary dedication. Enlisting in 1995 as a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he rose through the ranks to become one of the Army's most decorated and experienced aviators. After earning his wings at Fort Rucker in 1998, Justin went on to do what few ever accomplish. He was selected into the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, the Night Stalkers, where he would spend more than two decades of his career. I am proud to say that I had the privilege of serving alongside Justin in the 160th, and I can speak firsthand to the caliber of soldier, aviator, and leader he is.

Over the span of more than 20 years with the 160th, Justin served in virtually every leadership capacity imaginable, including Pilot in Command, Instructor Pilot, Standardization Instructor Pilot, Operations Officer, Senior Warrant Officer, and Regimental Flight Lead, deploying an astounding 30 times in support of the Global War on Terror and other contingency operations around the world. His decorations tell that story plainly: the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, and campaign medals bearing the marks of Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq, among many others.

But Justin is more than his record. He is a devoted husband to Dr. Leilani Karls and a proud father to Isabelle, Dr. Sydney, and Emma. The sacrifices made by his family in support of his service deserve equal recognition today.

On behalf of a grateful Nation and a proud Congress, I thank Justin. The Night Stalkers never quit, and neither did he. I congratulate him on a magnificent career, and Godspeed, in the next chapter.

CELEBRATING THE JOHNSON
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
CAVALIERS BASEBALL TEAM

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Johnson County Community College Cavaliers baseball team, which just won the Division 1 Junior College World Series national championship game for the first time in program history. As a JCCC alum, it is my pleasure to congratulate the team on this incredible accomplishment.

This well-deserved victory marked the finale of an already-historic season. The Cavaliers ended with a 67–3 record, which included a 41-game winning streak. As if that is not impressive enough, the team hit 219 home runs—a college baseball record across every level.

This past JCCC Cavaliers baseball season represents all the great ways we benefit from sports—instituting pride in our community, inspiring young people to set high goals, and offering new opportunities. In fact, the team expects more than 20 players to sign with Division I programs for next season.

Once again, I congratulate the JCCC Cavaliers baseball team and, on behalf of the Johnson County community and beyond, I thank

them for such an exciting season. Go Cavaliers.

HONORING THE NATIONAL SPEECH
& DEBATE ASSOCIATION'S 2026
NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the National Speech & Debate Association's 2026 National Tournament, which will be hosted in Richmond, Virginia, this June.

This prestigious national tournament will welcome more than 10,000 students, educators, and families from across the United States to the Commonwealth's capital. It is an extraordinary opportunity not only to showcase Richmond's abundant history and hospitality, but also to highlight the Commonwealth's commitment to educational excellence and civic engagement.

The Richmond Forum Speech & Debate Initiative has showcased a deep understanding of a simple yet profound truth: the strength of our democracy depends on the ability of its citizens to communicate clearly, think critically, and engage one another with respect and kindness. I am proud to welcome these young leaders into our community. This tournament provides an opportunity for students across the country to develop the analytical and persuasive skills that empower the next generation to engage in the civil exchange of ideas and tackle the problems of tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming these talented students to Virginia and celebrating the enduring value of speech and debate. I pray that they continue to find success in all their future endeavors.

HONORING DR. KIA MONIQUE
JONES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Kia Monique Jones, an outstanding scholar, advocate, entrepreneur, and community leader whose work has positively impacted communities throughout the State of Mississippi.

Dr. Jones is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of For Brown Girls, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing issues related to poverty, health equity, education, women empowerment, and community development. Through her leadership, the organization has created opportunities for professional networking, financial literacy, leadership development, and educational advancement for underserved communities throughout Mississippi.

In addition to her nonprofit leadership, Dr. Jones has remained deeply engaged in civic and public health initiatives through her service with numerous organizations, including Leadership Greater Jackson, the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute, Planned Parenthood Southeast Advisory Council, the Mis-

issippi Ending the HIV Epidemic Black Leadership Collaborative Task Force, and the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Program. Her commitment to social justice, equity, and public service continues to uplift communities across our state.

Dr. Jones' dedication and leadership have earned her numerous honors, including the Mississippi Business Journal's Top 50 Under 40 Award, Top CEOs in Mississippi recognition, the Women Economic Forum Exceptional Women of Excellence International Award, and several awards recognizing her humanitarianism and entrepreneurial success.

A proud three-time graduate of Jackson State University, Dr. Jones earned a Doctor of Public Health degree with a concentration in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, in addition to graduate and undergraduate degrees in Biology. She also earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Belhaven University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Kia Monique Jones has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of others through leadership, advocacy, and service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing her outstanding contributions to the State of Mississippi and congratulating her on her continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF NANCY MAGEE

HON. KEVIN MULLIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise, along with my colleague Representative SAM LICCARDO, to honor the life and memory of a dedicated community leader in San Mateo County, Nancy Magee, who passed away peacefully on April 26, 2026, at the age of 66.

Nancy served as the San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools before her retirement earlier this year. She was first elected in 2018 and led the San Mateo County Office of Education for eight years. Her extraordinary leadership was crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic, advancing multiple initiatives, supporting the transition to distance learning and back to in-person learning, and providing a steady, compassionate approach. Because of her efforts during the pandemic, she received the Pillar of the County Award from the San Mateo County School Boards Association and was named the Superintendent of the Year for San Mateo and San Francisco counties by the Association of California School Administrators.

Her work in behavioral health, environmental literacy, and school safety was recognized by California County Superintendents, which named the San Mateo County Office of Education 2025 Office of the Year for medium-sized counties. She spearheaded the Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities, establishing emergency protocols to help prevent school shootings. Additionally, she was instrumental in advancing the countywide third grade literacy initiative, The Big Lift, and other major projects such as the United for Youth Vision 2030 Blueprint and the Child Care Partnership Coalition.

Nancy was the recipient of the "Golden Oak" Award at the 17th District PTA Founders