

change for the betterment of LGBTQ+ people statewide.

Garcia advocated through decades long fights to pass city, county, and state-wide ordinances that banned discrimination against members of the LGBTQ+ community. His dedication to meaningful change has left a lasting impact throughout Illinois, and in the memories of all who were lucky enough to have worked with him throughout his career.

Garcia was the principal founder of Equality Illinois, the largest organizational voice for LGBTQ+ rights in Illinois. As executive director, he worked directly with Chicago, Cook County, and Illinois governments to codify marriage equality and fight against the worst forms of discrimination. He was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 1999.

Garcia knew how to unite communities for change, and how to bridge divides to ensure change was not only all-encompassing, but long-lasting. He was a member of the "Gang of Four," an activist group that played a critical role in the passing of Chicago's 1988 Human Rights Ordinance. Garcia was also an involved member of the Roman Catholic community on behalf of LGBTQ+ people of faith. He united Chicagoans from both major political parties in pursuit of justice and equality for all.

We remember and honor Rick Garcia as not only a dedicated activist, but a force for good in every community he touched. May his memory be a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in recognizing Rick Garcia for his tireless commitment to equality in Chicago and honoring his legacy.

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#### HONORING MARY ALICE EDWARDS

### HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate an incredible woman, Mary Alice Edwards, on her 90th birthday.

Mary Alice was born February 1, 1936, in Trenton, Tennessee, and moved to South Bend at just six months old. She grew up on Scott Street and later helped make history when her family became the first African American homeowners on the 1400 block of Washington Street. From the start, her life has been about courage, progress, and faith.

She attended Oliver Elementary and graduated from Central High School in 1954. That same year, she got married and began raising her greatest legacy: five children, three daughters and two sons. One of her sons went on to become a respected business leader in this community, which says a lot about the values Mary Alice poured into her family.

Mary Alice worked hard her whole life, from Essex Wire and Wells Electronics to more than 20 years at Curtis Products, retiring in 2016 at the age of 80. She also served as PTO secretary at Linden School, always making sure kids and families were supported.

Her faith has guided everything she's done. She joined Laken Chapel Primitive Baptist Church on December 31, 1964, during a night watch service, and went on to serve as assistant clerk, then clerk. For over 30 years, she has also served as clerk of the Big Creek

Primitive Baptist Association, faithfully serving churches across the region.

So today, Mr. Speaker, we don't just celebrate a birthday. We celebrate 90 years of faith, hard work, leadership, and love. Mary Alice's life has shaped her family, strengthened her church, and lifted this community. We thank God for her and pray for many more healthy, joyful years ahead.

Happy 90th birthday.

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#### RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLACK JANUARY

### HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this month, our friend and partner, the Republic of Azerbaijan marks the 36th anniversary of "Black January."

This period symbolizes the beginning of the end of Soviet rule over Azerbaijan, an occupation that lasted for much of the 20th Century. This was a time of oppression and horror. But uncowed by the evil of communism, the people of Azerbaijan yearned for freedom.

On January 19, 1990, violence erupted in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku where Soviet troops killed over 100 Azeri demonstrators and wounded another 700. Undeterred, the people of Azerbaijan continued their peaceful protests until declaring independence from the U.S.S.R. on October 18, 1991.

Now, 36 years on from this tragedy, Azerbaijan can celebrate this as the first year of sustained peace since gaining its independence. With the assistance of the American President, the end of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict promises to be a turning point for the region.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the events of Black January in Azerbaijan and honoring those who lost their lives in pursuit of freedom. Further, please join me in thanking President Donald J. Trump for his work to secure peace and prosperity with our friend and partner. The United States continues to stand with the people of Azerbaijan and their right to live free.

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#### SUPPORTING H.R. 6719, THE COMBATING ONLINE PREDATORS ACT

### HON. LUCY MCBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6719, the Combating Online Predators Act.

There are a number of teenagers and pre-teens who have lost their lives to suicide because of sextortion. We are fighting against criminal individuals and groups who seek out our children with no goal other than to cause turmoil. Sextortion is a dangerous and sick activity that has been increasingly used against children—so much so that the FBI has released warnings on the growing risk this poses to our kids, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has reported a nearly 200 percent increase in at-

tempts. As our social landscape continues to evolve, placing our most vulnerable population online more often, we must be prepared with the laws to deter and punish bad actors.

These perpetrators have taken AI-generated images of their victims or convinced the teens to send nude images of themselves and used them as leverage for outrageous demands. Some perpetrators will demand thousands of dollars—a request that is near impossible for the vast majority of teens.

Teenagers worry about so many things: what they are going to wear for homecoming, why their acne cannot seem to get under control, whether they should go to college or trade school. They should not be worried about someone catfishing them and using intimate images of them to either coerce money from them or push them to self-harm.

From Michigan, to Kentucky, to Ohio, and Georgia, these schemes range across the country. These sextortion operations are expanding, and we must do what we can to help law enforcement and prosecutors bring these evils to justice.

With this bill, we will provide prosecutors with additional tools to hold perpetrators accountable for schemes in which they seek to obtain explicit photos and videos of minors.

Our teenagers are in need of protection regardless of their independence and maturity. I am proud to support this legislation to ensure our teenagers can spend this pivotal moment in their lives focusing on things that will positively shape them into adulthood. They should have the chance to enjoy their teenage years without threat or malice.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6719, the Combating Online Predators Act.

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#### RECOGNIZING MATTHEW MYERS

### HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens of the 24th District of Texas. The 2025 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Specialist Matthew Myers, United States Army, of Dallas, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued service to his community.

Specialist Myers served honorably in the United States Army from 1979 to 1982 as a combat medic with the 1st Ranger Battalion, U.S. Army Airborne. Throughout his service, he exemplified the highest standards of courage, readiness, and compassion providing emergency care under demanding conditions while supporting the elite soldiers of the Ranger Regiment. His military decorations include the Parachutist Badge, Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Expert Rifle Badge, and Medical Field Expert Badge, recognizing his professionalism and technical skill as both a soldier and a medic.

Following his military service, Specialist Myers built a distinguished career in education, leadership, and philanthropy, continuing his lifelong commitment to service. As Dean of the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University from 2017 to 2025,

he championed expanded scholarship opportunities for veterans and active-duty service members, doubling the school's Yellow Ribbon funding to ensure broader access to graduate education through the GI Bill. He also served as a faculty adviser to SMU Military Veterans, providing mentorship and advocacy for students transitioning from military to academic life.

Beyond higher education, Specialist Myers continues to serve his community through board leadership with Goodwill of Dallas, the Baylor Scott & White Dallas Foundation, King Ranch, and The Peregrine Fund advancing causes of workforce development, healthcare, and conservation. His influence has inspired countless students and colleagues, including his own daughters, who credit his Army service for shaping their values of selflessness, humility, and strength.

Specialist Myers' honorable service and continued dedication to education, veterans, and his community reflect the highest traditions of the United States Army and bring great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

COMMEMORATING STEPHEN  
MOYLAN

HON. MARY GAY SCANLON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of Philadelphia's great figures, Stephen Moylan. As we approach America's 250th anniversary, I find it fitting that we reflect on the individuals whose service and sacrifice helped lay its foundation.

Born in Cork in 1737, Stephen Moylan emigrated to Philadelphia in 1767 after experiencing religious persecution. Like so many immigrants, Moylan came to America seeking freedom and opportunity and went on to play a critical role in the fight for independence.

During the War for Independence, he served in several key positions, including as the second Quartermaster General of the Continental Army, Commander of the Fourth Continental Light Dragoons, and a trusted aide to General George Washington. Moylan is also credited as the first to have used the phrase "United States of America" reflecting his belief in unity among the colonies.

Moylan was a man of many accomplishments. Notably, in 1771 he was elected the first president of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in Philadelphia, an organization established on the principles of welcoming and supporting Irish immigrants. Today the organization continues his work by promoting Irish culture, education, and providing aid.

On January 14, 2026, the Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick, in partnership with Irish America 250, co-hosted an event at Villanova University to honor Stephen Moylan. This kick-off commemorated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and highlighted the Irish contributions to American History and culture.

Ultimately, Stephen Moylan's life and legacy serve as a powerful reminder of the role Irish immigrants have played, and continue to play, shaping the American Republic. His service to Philadelphia, the Revolutionary cause, and to

generations of Irish Americans reflects the long-lasting values of unity, service, and liberty shared among the Irish and American people.

TRIBUTE TO DR. CECIL EDWARD  
"EDDIE" FLOYD

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. Cecil Edward "Eddie" Floyd, a distinguished physician, visionary leader, and devoted servant to the people of South Carolina, who transitioned on January 15, 2026. His life's work reflects a rare combination of professional excellence, civic responsibility, and deep commitment to family and community.

A native of Lake City, South Carolina, Dr. Floyd was educated in Lake City Public Schools. He went on to attend the University of South Carolina, earning his bachelor's degree, before pursuing his calling in medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina. Following his medical degree, Dr. Floyd completed his internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana, an experience that further shaped his dedication to compassionate, high-quality care. Board-certified in both General and Vascular Surgery, he built a medical career marked by skill, integrity, and an unwavering focus on patient well-being.

Beyond the operating room, Dr. Floyd exemplified leadership through service. He dedicated countless hours to strengthening institutions that serve the public good, including his role as Chairman of the Board for MUSC Health Florence Medical Center. Over the decades, he served on boards for numerous organizations spanning healthcare, higher education, finance, conservation, and public policy—always bringing thoughtful guidance, steady leadership, and a deep sense of responsibility.

Dr. Floyd's impact extended into higher education and civic life through long-standing service on the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees, including his tenure as Chairman, and through leadership roles with financial and philanthropic institutions. His counsel was sought at the state, national, and international levels, including service as a Delegate to the United Nations General Assembly and participation in organizations shaping healthcare policy and medical education.

His distinguished service was widely recognized. Dr. Floyd was named a Distinguished Eagle Scout and received honorary doctoral degrees from Francis Marion University and the University of South Carolina. Among his many accolades was the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor—a testament to both his professional excellence and moral character.

At the center of Dr. Floyd's life was his family. He shared a loving marriage with his wife, Kay Baker Floyd of Timmonsville, and together they raised three children—Dr. Coleman Floyd Buckhouse, Cecil "Bubby" Edward Floyd, Jr., and Emory "Sissy" Kay Floyd. He was a proud grandfather to nine grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and our colleagues join me in honoring the life of Dr.

Cecil Edward "Eddie" Floyd—a healer, a leader, and a servant whose legacy will continue to inspire South Carolina for generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LEDA A.  
MELIDEO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Leda A. Melideo, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, who passed away on December 20, 2025.

Leda A. Melideo was born on December 1, 1929, at home in the Lakewood section of Pittsfield, the daughter of the late Frank and Ida Curini Tranquilli. Her family later moved to the Morningside neighborhood, where she attended Crane School and went on to graduate from St. Joseph's High School as a member of the Class of 1947. A woman of deep faith, Leda was a lifelong parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, where her values of compassion, gratitude, and service were reflected throughout her life.

On April 29, 1950, Leda married the love of her life, Anthony Melideo. Together, they shared 63 years of marriage and built a family rooted in love, devotion, and togetherness. She was a devoted mother to four children: Nancy (Houghton) Smith of Greenfield, Massachusetts; Joseph P. Melideo of Fultonville, New York; Anthony A. Melideo, with whom she resided; and Thomas A. Melideo and his wife, Gabriela, of Vienna, Virginia. She was predeceased by her husband, Anthony; her brother, Faro; and her sister, Diana Carlon. Leda's legacy continues through her family, including her three grandchildren—Marissa Kelleher and her husband, Sean; Sophia Melideo; and Samuel Melideo—her two great-grandsons, Callan and Nolan Kelleher, and several nieces and nephews who were blessed by her love and guidance.

Known affectionately as "Nonni," Leda was a bright light to all who knew her. She possessed a remarkable ability to find joy in everyday life and to inspire that same joy in others. Her contagious laughter, warm smile, and kind spirit made everyone feel welcome, and she was the heart of countless happy memories that her family and friends will cherish forever. Above all, she found her greatest joy in spending time with family and friends, embracing each moment with gratitude and grace.

I am honored to recognize Leda A. Melideo for a life beautifully lived—one defined by love, faith, family, and kindness. Her legacy will endure in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know her, and her memory will remain a lasting blessing to the Pittsfield community and beyond.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE NELSON  
BLACKMON

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 20, 2026*

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of a grateful Nation and the citizens