

youth who experienced foster care, learning from them, and trying to make sure we do better in the future.

Foster Youth Shadow Day is the culmination of a week-long program designed for young people with lived experience to advocate for federal child welfare policy. The youth receive training about how to share their experiences with policymakers to make child welfare laws better. The program concludes with the annual Foster Youth Shadow Day when the youth meet with and follow legislators. The 2026 program marked the 16th Foster Youth Shadow Day. I have appreciated the opportunity to listen to the ideas and concerns of the many young professionals connected with me during Foster Youth Shadow Day. This year, 41 delegates from across the Nation participated in this important initiative.

I am very proud to serve as one of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus—often known as the Adoption Caucus—that has consistently saved as the voice for the needs of children who require safe, nurturing, and permanent families both in the United States and around the world for 40 years. The Caucus collaborates with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute to host the Foster Youth Internship Program. This competitive and rigorous program places youth in Congressional offices, educates them on federal policy and advocacy, requires interns to produce a published Congressional policy report that includes their recommendations, and culminates in a Congressional briefing on their work. I have had the privilege of hosting many FYI interns in my office over the years. I know first-hand that their ideas have translated into important legislation and laws to make life better for youth. Now in its 23rd year, this internship continues to provide young people with lived experience meaningful opportunities to share their stories, engage in federal policy advocacy, and contribute substantive policy research.

According to federal Administration on Children and Families, there were 331,747 children in foster care in the U.S. during 2025. Although family reunification remains the primary goal of the child welfare system, many children spend years in care due to a range of complex circumstances. This issue is deeply important to me, and I have dedicated much of my work to advancing significant change. I have served as the senior Democrat on the Subcommittee with jurisdiction over child welfare within the Committee on Ways and Means for almost 10 years. Some of my proudest accomplishments during my 30-year tenure in Congress include helping children and families by strengthening them so that they do not enter care, helping them get the support and services needed to home safely or to join a new loving family, and to help older youth who age out of care obtain the resources need to transition successfully into independence.

I am proud to work alongside organizations such as the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, the National Youth Institute, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus, and the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth to elevate lived experience voices and advance federal child welfare policy. As the youth say, “Nothing about us without us.”

HONORING CLARENCE DUNKLEY
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR CARIB-
BEAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Clarence Dunkley as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Originally from Jamaica, Clarence Dunkley has proudly called America home for more than 32 years. Throughout those years, he has dedicated his life not only to the construction industry, but also to uplifting others through humanitarian service and community leadership.

Clarence is widely respected for his generosity, compassion, and commitment to giving back. Through his nonprofit organization, he has helped provide housing and support for veterans, ensuring those who served our country are not forgotten. His impact reaches far beyond his profession, as he continually works to strengthen and support the community around him.

Despite building a successful life in the United States, Clarence has never forgotten his roots. He frequently returns to Jamaica to give back to communities in need, reflecting his deep passion for humanitarian work and his dedication to helping others both locally and internationally.

Clarence Dunkley exemplifies the spirit of Caribbean Heritage Month through his leadership, service, cultural pride, and unwavering commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF DAVID H. HENDERSON, JR.

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of David H. Henderson, Jr., a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, Marine, attorney, and faithful servant of God whose life was defined by service, integrity, humility, and love.

David Henderson dedicated his life to serving his country, his community, and his family. While many knew him for his distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps and the Department of Justice, those closest to him knew him as something even greater, a devoted husband and father, a trusted mentor, a man of deep faith, and someone who quietly made the lives of others better every day.

Born to David H. Henderson, Sr., a retired United States Air Force Major, and Florence Steciak Henderson, David grew up in Oklahoma, earning the rank of Eagle Scout before graduating from Del City High School. Even at a young age, he displayed the leadership that would define his life, serving as president of both his junior and senior classes and captain of the debate team.

David attended the University of Oklahoma on an ROTC scholarship, where he excelled both academically and in the military. Upon

earning his bachelor's degree, he received the Marine Corps Sword as the top Marine graduate in his class. Following Officer Candidate School, the Marine Corps selected him to attend the University of Oklahoma College of Law. There, he graduated with honors and was inducted into the prestigious Order of the Coif, an honor reserved for the Nation's finest law students.

Over the course of a distinguished twenty-year career in the United States Marine Corps, David served as a military attorney, handling numerous nationally significant cases. Among the most notable was his representation of Sergeant Clayton Lonetree in the espionage case later chronicled in Rodney Barker's *Dancing with the Devil*. Barker described David as a laid-back Oklahoman who appeared more interested in hunting and fishing than courtroom battles, cautioning readers that “it was a mistake to underestimate him.” Beneath that easygoing demeanor was a brilliant legal mind, sound judgment, and quiet confidence that earned the admiration of colleagues and opponents alike.

David also successfully represented Douglas Beane, a Vietnam-era serviceman who returned after two decades away in hopes of seeing his dying father. Later, he represented a Marine captain at Guantanamo Bay in a case that would eventually inspire the film *A Few Good Men*.

In 1989, David was selected to serve as the military escort for James Pierce, the brother of First Lady Barbara Bush, during the Presidential inaugural festivities. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1990 as a Major.

His commitment to justice did not end with military service. After retiring from the Marine Corps, David became the first Public Defender appointed to serve the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, along with the surrounding counties of Stafford, Spotsylvania, and King George. In 1992, he joined the Office of the United States Attorney under U.S. Attorney Bob Wortham and faithfully served for two decades as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas.

Yet David would have been the first to say that his greatest accomplishments were never the titles he held or the cases he argued.

He believed deeply in hard work, personal responsibility, and treating every person with dignity and respect. He had little interest in accolades for their own sake. Instead, he measured success by the quality of one's work, the strength of one's character, and the impact one had on the lives of others. Those values guided every aspect of his life.

Whether building a family home with his own hands, tending a garden, caring for livestock, or mentoring his children, David believed that anything worthwhile required effort. He taught his family that no job was beneath them and that honest work, done well, was among life's greatest virtues.

At the center of David's life was his beloved wife, Lois. He often remarked that he was the luckiest man in the world and never quite understood how someone as wonderful as Lois had chosen him. Their marriage was marked by unwavering love, enduring friendship, steadfast faith, and complete devotion. Together, they built a home filled with laughter, compassion, and example, teaching their children and grandchildren what a faithful and loving marriage looks like.

David also had a lifelong love for his Britany bird dogs. He spent countless hours

hunting, training, and caring for them. Though the dogs did not always share his enthusiasm for following instructions, they remained treasured family members and brought him immeasurable joy.

In retirement, David devoted himself to serving others in new ways. For eight years, he volunteered at the Gib Lewis Prison, counseling inmates battling addiction and helping them find hope, purpose, and redemption. He helped establish the Bridges to Life program under the direction of Father Frank Rossi and became deeply involved in restorative justice and prison ministry. In recognition of his extraordinary volunteer service, the State of Texas honored him in 2020.

A devoted Catholic, David was an active member of Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church in Woodville, Texas. He faithfully served as a SCAP minister, cantor, Eucharistic minister, lector, choir member, and participated extensively in ACTS retreats and St. Maximilian Kolbe Prison Retreats. As a Third Degree Knight of Columbus, he found profound purpose in living out his faith through service.

Perhaps the simplest way to describe David Henderson is this: he spent his life helping people.

Whether serving on the school board of his daughters' school, defending a client, prosecuting a case, mentoring a child, comforting a prisoner, serving his church, supporting his family, or simply returning shopping carts in a parking lot because he thought it might make someone else's day a little easier, David consistently chose service over self.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David H. Henderson, Sr. and Florence Steciak Henderson.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Lois Badeaux Henderson; his daughters, Mary Henderson Grimes and her husband, Sean Grimes, of Kingwood, Texas, and Anne Henderson of Paris, France; his stepdaughter, Dr. Jessica Bergen and her husband, Dr. Edward Bergen, of Lake Charles, Louisiana; his stepson, Michael DeJohn, Jr. and his wife, Aubrey DeJohn, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; his cherished grandchildren, Olivia, Sophia, and Emma Bergen; Lola and Sully Grimes; and Adler DeJohn; his beloved sister, Jeanne Henderson; and countless extended family members, friends, colleagues, parishioners, and former clients whose lives were forever enriched by his kindness, wisdom, and guidance.

David Henderson leaves behind a legacy measured not simply by his impressive professional accomplishments but by the countless lives he touched through his example. He taught those around him to work hard, think independently, serve generously, love deeply, and walk humbly with God. His family takes comfort in knowing that the values he embodied continue to live on in the generations that follow.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is stronger because of Americans like David H. Henderson, Jr.—men who quietly devoted their lives to faith, family, justice, and service. His legacy will endure through the countless people he mentored, the family he loved so deeply, and the example he set for all who had the privilege of knowing him.

It is my honor to recognize his extraordinary life and ask that his memory forever remain a source of inspiration to us all.

HONORING U.S. ARMY VETERAN
HOWARD "SAM" WAITE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army veteran Howard "Sam" Waite. Sam was born on July 2, 1926, in Pontiac, Michigan, and his military service spans three wartime periods and includes some of the most significant conflicts of the twentieth century.

Raised in Poultney, Vermont, Sam was drafted in 1944 at the age of 18. He served as a rifleman assigned to Battery C, 658th Field Artillery Battalion, in the European Theater of Operations. Sam was in Germany on Victory in Europe Day, witnessing the surrender of Nazi Germany and the end of World War II in Europe. For his service, Sam earned the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon.

After the war, Sam reenlisted as an automotive repairman and served through the Korean War, ascending through the non-commissioned officer ranks and earning the Korean Service Medal with two Bronze Stars. Following Korea, Sam was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, before transferring to the Panama Canal Zone, where he provided military assistance and economic aid by training local troops to operate U.S.-provided vehicles. During this assignment, Sam also traveled throughout South America, including visits to Bolivia, Chile, and Uruguay.

Sam later served during the Vietnam War, earning the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device. Returning to the United States, he spent two years as an Assistant Professor of Automotive Engineering at the United States Military Academy at West Point before being deployed to Iran during the turmoil of the 1960s. On June 7, 1966, Sam achieved the senior rank in the Army Non-Commissioned Officer Corps, often referred to as the backbone of the Army. In 1968, Sam retired as a highly decorated Sergeant Major after more than 24 years of military service.

Following his retirement from the Army, Sam returned home to Granville, New York where he continued serving his community. He operated a Texaco gas station and repair shop for 16 years before spending the next four decades working in automotive air-conditioning repair. Sam ultimately retired at the age of 88.

On July 2, 2026, Sam will celebrate his 100th birthday. His century of life has been defined by service, sacrifice, hard work, and devotion to both his country and his community. On behalf of New York's 21st Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Howard "Sam" Waite and thank him for his extraordinary service to the United States.

HONORING DARIO AND HUNNIE
EMANS AS DISTINGUISHED
LEADERS IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR CARIBBEAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dario and Hunnie Emans as Distinguished Leaders in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Dario and Hunnie Emans are respected entrepreneurs whose dedication to small business development and community engagement has contributed to economic growth within Florida's 9th Congressional District. Prior to relocating to Florida, both served more than 20 years with the New York City Department of Correction on Rikers Island. Hunnie Emans retired as an Emergency Service Unit (ESU) officer, serving in a specialized unit responsible for emergency response and critical operations. Dario Emans retired as an assistant deputy warden and commanding officer of the Special Operations Division, where he provided leadership and oversight of specialized correctional operations and personnel.

Following their retirement, the Emanses redirected their commitment to service toward entrepreneurship by founding Hunnies Body Boutique in St. Cloud, Florida. What began as a personal effort to find natural solutions for family skincare concerns evolved into a successful small business focused on natural wellness and skincare products. Through research, product development, and a dedication to quality, they transformed a home-based venture into a thriving brick-and-mortar boutique serving customers throughout Osceola County and beyond.

Under their leadership, Hunnies Body Boutique has become recognized for its commitment to customer education, wellness, and quality products while contributing to the local economy and supporting the continued growth of small businesses within the region.

Hunnie Emans is an active member of the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce and proudly serves as a Chamber Ambassador, helping welcome new businesses, foster professional relationships, and support initiatives that strengthen the local business community.

Together, Dario and Hunnie Emans exemplify the values of public service, entrepreneurship, and community involvement. Their combined legacy of service—first through distinguished careers with the New York City Department of Correction and now through their investment in Florida's business community—reflects resilience, leadership, and an enduring commitment to the economic vitality of Florida's 9th Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
MEMORY OF CAROL WROTONIAK

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Carol Wrotniak, who passed away on June 7, 2026,