

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,

at the venerable age of 94. Carol was a woman of deep faith and a cherished pillar of her community, leaving behind a profound legacy of devotion and love.

I wish to extend my deepest condolences to my dear friend and colleague, Representative TOM SUOZZI, his remarkable wife, Helene, and their family on the passing of her beloved mother. Carol's life was defined by her unwavering commitment to her family and her heritage. As a devoted Catholic and a proud member of Glen Cove's Polish community, she brought warmth, kindness, and generosity to everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Above all, Carol was a cornerstone for her family. Her enduring love will live on through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who were the pride and joy of her life.

Carol's spirit continues to shine brightly through the lives of the many people she impacted. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this remarkable individual and celebrating the inspiring life she lived.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF KAREN HENRY BEN

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Karen Henry Ben. Karen Henry Ben grew up in the Bogue Chitto and Conehatta community and attended Choctaw Central High School where she served as Drum Major, was Salutatorian, and was a talented athlete representing the Warriors on the athletic field.

Her first job was at the Baptist Indian Center. Later, she was employed with the Bureau of Indian Affairs-Choctaw Agency. Karen also held various positions within the Choctaw Tribal Government Operations including jobs with the Choctaw Tribal Schools, Choctaw Social Services, Choctaw Housing Authority, Choctaw Attorney General's Office, and the Realty Program where she handled converting the Tribe's land acquisitions into trust with the Department of the Interior.

During her tenure of service to the tribe, she served on the Grievance Committee, as a Choctaw translator in judiciary settings for tribal members, and on the Choctaw Boxing Commission. Karen was a devout advocate for tribal members and was instrumental in helping to protect the Tribe's sovereignty in her various capacities.

She was known for her belief in service to her community, service to her fellow man and family, and she will always be remembered for her love of the Pearl River Community and her church, Pearl River Baptist Church.

Her legacy of service and love for others lives on through the lives of those she cared for, including her daughter Cherienna Ben and her two sons, Ira Ben and Chief Cyrus Ben. I am thankful for the opportunity to remember the life and legacy of Karen Henry Ben.

RECOGNIZING MR. CLIFF BERRY II

HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Cliff Berry II, President and Chief Executive Officer of Cliff Berry, Inc. (CBI), a major environmental services and maritime response company headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

For more than 60 years, Cliff Berry, Inc. has served both the private and public sectors, providing critical environmental services and 24-hour emergency response to oil and chemical spills throughout the United States and the Bahamas. The company operates seven facilities across Florida and employs more than 200 full-time professionals with specialized equipment and expertise.

Under Cliffs leadership, the company extends its sincere appreciation to the veterans and service members who serve our Nation and recognizes the leadership, discipline, and commitment they bring to the civilian workforce. CBI proudly supports and employs veterans, members of the National Guard and Reserve, and military families throughout Florida.

Cliff is committed to compliance with the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and supports employees who are called to military service. The company remains dedicated to protecting their employment rights, benefits, and reemployment opportunities while also recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of military families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Mr. Cliff Berry II for his outstanding commitment to hiring and supporting our Nation's veterans and Reserve Components in Florida's 23rd Congressional District. His leadership and dedication serve as an example of patriotism, service, and support for those who defend our Nation.

HONORING DR. MELANIE
MELENDEZ GARCIA AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER 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 Dr. Melanie Melendez Garcia as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Dr. Melanie Melendez Garcia is a Puerto Rican-born emergency physician, entrepreneur, and community leader whose dedication to healthcare and service has made a lasting impact throughout Central Florida and Florida's 9th Congressional District.

After earning her medical degree and completing her emergency medicine training in Puerto Rico, Dr. Melendez Garcia moved to Florida and answered a calling that extended beyond hospital walls. Recognizing the healthcare challenges faced by uninsured and immigrant communities, she founded MG Medical Center, where she provides excellent

care to Latino and immigrant families. She partnered with the Office of Refugee Resettlement and became the first clinic to successfully integrate all medical services required for unaccompanied minors' immigration medical evaluations into a single visit. In 2025, her practice was recognized by the Orlando Sentinel Media Group, in Central Florida Favorites as Best Medical Facility.

While continuing to serve as an emergency physician—a vocation she remains deeply committed to—Dr. Melendez Garcia has also provided care to underserved populations through the federal Indian Health Service.

Believing that service extends beyond medicine, Dr. Melendez Garcia has become an advocate for entrepreneurship and community development. She currently serves as vice president of the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Central Florida, having previously served as director of the Osceola Chapter and Director of Trustees. Through her leadership, she mentors and empowers aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly healthcare professionals, helping them transform their dreams into successful businesses.

Dr. Melendez Garcia was featured in Nosotras Latina Magazine in 2023 and actively participates in faith-based and community leadership initiatives dedicated to empowering others.

A devoted wife, mother, physician, and servant leader, Dr. Melendez Garcia believes that the greatest measure of success is not found in titles or accomplishments, but in the lives touched and the communities strengthened through service.

HONORING LINDA JACOBS

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Jacobs for her more than four decades of extraordinary public service as a nonprofit leader.

From an early age in Coral Gables, Florida, Linda's parents demonstrated the importance of community service, serving as volunteers for their Jewish congregation and youth sports. As a young adult, Linda herself was an outspoken advocate for the green party, the women's movement, and civil rights. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of South Florida and soon after moving to San Francisco in 1978, joined the Breakthrough Foundation, a nonprofit that won national acclaim for helping change the trajectory of at-risk youth. During her seven-year tenure at the organization, Linda established funding for scholarships to cover all participating youth. This was the start of a long career building and strengthening nonprofits in the Bay Area.

Linda's work in Marin County began in the early 1990s and includes a breadth and depth of professional roles, including as the development director for Marin Child Care Council; the development and public affairs director for Planned Parenthood of Marin, Sonoma, and Mendocino; and executive director of the Mill Valley Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, she joined the Volunteer Center of Marin as their chief executive officer. She went on to transform the organization first into the Center for