

Eastern Region of Ghana, West Africa, and as a Queen with the Numidoria Kingdom for Africans in the Diaspora. Her commitment to peace and education is further demonstrated through her roles as a Peace Ambassador and Consulate of Education with the Numidoria Kingdom's Embassy.

Beyond her educational endeavors, Dr. Ingram is a multitasking entrepreneur, excelling as a cosmetologist/trainer, restaurant manager/owner, and beauty spa owner/operator. Her diverse skill set also extends to program directing, as she serves as a church director for the seniors' program, praise dance, and drama.

Dr. Ingram's impact transcends borders as she has authored influential works and holds a key position as a Jamaica Red Cross Society Council member. Her dedication to the well-being of others is further evident through her role as a guidance counselor, minister, motivational speaker, mother and advocate.

HONORING THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lake Champlain Research Institute in the Center for Earth and Environmental Science at SUNY Plattsburgh on the dedication of its new research vessel, the R/V Leptodora.

The Leptodora replaces LCRI's longtime research vessel, the Gruending, which has served researchers on Lake Champlain for more than three decades. This state-of-the-art vessel will expand the Institute's ability to conduct cutting-edge research, support student training, and advance our understanding of Lake Champlain. Under the leadership of Dr. Timothy Mihuc, the Institute has built a reputation for scientific excellence through investments in modern laboratory equipment, advanced field instruments, and innovative monitoring technologies that provide critical data on the health of Lake Champlain.

The Leptodora was made possible through a strong partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, which provided \$750,000 toward construction of the custom-built vessel, along with additional support for a multi-year deep-lake ecology research initiative. The new vessel will play a central role in that project, enabling scientists and students to collect data more efficiently and safely while expanding research opportunities on the lake. The Commission's continued investment reflects its longstanding commitment to scientific research, fisheries management, and environmental stewardship throughout the region.

Named after Leptodora kindtii, a transparent zooplankton species found in Lake Champlain and an important component of the lake's food web, the vessel symbolizes the Institute's mission to better understand and protect the complex ecosystems that sustain the lake. Through research conducted aboard the Leptodora, SUNY Plattsburgh students will gain invaluable hands-on experience while contributing to the scientific knowledge needed to preserve Lake Champlain for future generations.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Lake Champlain Research Institute, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Dr. Mihuc and his team, and all of the partners whose dedication and support have made this important achievement possible. Their work strengthens the North Country, advances freshwater science, and helps ensure the long-term health and preservation of Lake Champlain.

HONORING ARTHUR JAMES
REDDICK ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur James Reddick on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Arthur is a member of the Greatest Generation. On June 26, 1926, he was born in Jersey City, New Jersey to Alice and William Reddick. Arthur served in the Army Air Corps, a predecessor to the U.S. Air Force from July 1944 to August 1946 where he earned five medals. Following his discharge from service, Arthur returned to New Jersey to launch a long career in business, including employment with American Home Products, General Foods and ultimately running his own business—Promotion Designers and Manufacturing.

Arthur and his wife Susan moved to Glen Head, New York in 1990 and became parishioners at St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove. They spent many years in Sarasota, Florida but returned to the North Shore, settling in Glen Cove in 2017.

As Arthur celebrates this milestone birthday, I want to thank him for his service to our country and for defending the values we hold so dear. The deeds and sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation, including by Arthur, will be remembered with gratitude for generations to come. I thank Arthur and wish him a happy birthday.

HONORING BELINDA ORTIZ
KIRKEGARD 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 Belinda Ortiz Kirkegard as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month. Belinda Ortiz Kirkegard is president of the National Entrepreneur Center (NEC), an internationally recognized entrepreneurial support organization serving Central Florida's small business community. She holds a Master of Public Administration from Troy University, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of Central Florida, and is a Certified Economic Development Finance Professional.

Ms. Kirkegard has dedicated more than three decades to advancing economic development, entrepreneurship, and community en-

gagement throughout Florida. Prior to joining the NEC in 2023, she served as economic development director for the City of Kissimmee, where she established and led the city's economic development program. During her tenure, she helped attract more than \$50 million in private investment, developed strategic initiatives focused on healthcare and aerospace industry growth, and contributed to projects that expanded the city's tax base and strengthened regional economic competitiveness.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Kirkegard served in leadership roles with Orange County government, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association, and statewide public affairs initiatives. She is recognized for building collaborative partnerships among business, government, nonprofit, and community stakeholders to achieve measurable economic and community outcomes.

Ms. Kirkegard currently serves on the Valencia College District Board of Trustees and the AdventHealth Central Florida Division Board. She previously served on the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Board, including as treasurer, and has held leadership positions with numerous business, economic development, healthcare, and civic organizations throughout Central Florida.

Her professional achievements have earned numerous recognitions, including Orlando Magazine's 2026 Woman of the Year, the Orlando Business Journal's Women Who Mean Business Award, Florida Trend's "People to Know" designation, and the Orlando Magic and Florida Blue Small Business Champion Award. Through her leadership, Ms. Kirkegard has helped expand opportunities for entrepreneurs, strengthen regional economic development efforts, and advance community prosperity across Florida.

HONORING ELLIE COHEN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ellie Cohen on the occasion of her retirement from The Climate Center (The Center) and to honor her decades of visionary leadership.

Under her leadership as chief executive officer, The Climate Center helped catalyze California's status as a global leader in addressing the climate crisis. Ellie played an integral role in advancing policies to modernize our electric grid and prioritize nature-based climate solutions, broadening the organization's impact, deepening its policy engagement, and building coalitions across sectors to meet the scale of the climate crisis. The Center was helped in efforts to reform and extend California's signature climate program to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions. She also expanded The Center's public education role: convening their annual California Climate Policy Summit, hosting dozens of webinars, producing policy briefs, and engaging lawmakers at global climate meetings to elevate California's leadership. Her work and accomplishments at The Center will shape policy and environmental outcomes for generations to come.

Prior to joining The Climate Center, Ellie spent nearly two decades as President and

CEO of Point Blue Conservation Science. There, she led the growing organization to significant accomplishments, including attaining official Observer NGO status at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as helping to direct nearly \$100 million of conservation investments across more than two million acres of public and agricultural land. Her leadership helped coastal communities plan for sea level rise, guided climate small restoration on working lands, and strengthened partnerships among agencies, non-profit organizations, land trusts, ranchers, farmers, and educators throughout California.

Ellie's leadership has been recognized with numerous accolades over the years both by her peers and partners including the Beyond Duke Alumni Award for Service and Leadership, the National Park Service Pacific West Region Partnership Award, and the Bay Nature Environmental Hero Award. She has also been designated one of the "100 Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet." Ellie's professional achievements are matched only by her academic accomplishments. She earned her undergraduate degree with honors in botany from Duke University and a Master of Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Speaker, Ellie Cohen is a model of climate leadership. She has worked tirelessly to translate climate research into real world progress. I have enjoyed the benefit of working with Ellie on many critical initiatives over the years. Her bright mind and enduring commitment to science-based climate action is worthy of highest commendation. On behalf of California's communities and those across our Nation who benefit from her efforts, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deep appreciation for Ellie Cohen's decades of service and in extending our best wishes as she embarks on her next endeavor.

HONORING THE CREW OF COAST GUARD CUTTER HOLLYHOCK

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the crew of Coast Guard Cutter Hollyhock as we recognize the completion of their first Operation Blue Pacific patrol.

The Hollyhock is a seagoing buoy tender, which the Coast Guard uses to monitor and perform repairs and maintenance on buoys and other navigational aids in U.S. territories and other areas with U.S. shipping interests. Originally ported in Port Huron, Michigan, the Hollyhock was reassigned to Honolulu in October 2025.

In April, the 50-person crew departed from Honolulu for the 42-day long Operation Blue Pacific, where they traveled over 7,500 nautical miles throughout the broader Oceania region.

Operation Blue Pacific is an ongoing multi-mission Coast Guard initiative across Oceania to bolster ties with Pacific Island nations and communities. The mission also contributes to broader U.S. efforts to monitor regional security developments and counter malign influence in the Pacific.

My home state of Hawaii relies heavily on and has benefited greatly from the presence of the Coast Guard. We fully appreciate the Coast Guard's direct support of Hawaii residents, both generally and through its District Oceania headquarters in Honolulu, by performing its statutory missions like search and rescue and maritime environmental protection. But I would like to especially highlight the Coast Guard's indispensable role beyond Hawaii throughout the broader Pacific.

The Pacific Islands region has long held critical importance to our country on several fronts. As an island state, Hawaii understands better than most the importance of strong relationships, reliable maritime infrastructure, and a sustained commitment to the communities that call the Pacific home.

The success of Operation Blue Pacific reflects the many ways in which Coast Guard personnel contribute to these goals every day. Through their technical expertise and commitment to service, the crew of the Hollyhock supported maritime communities in the U.S. territories of Midway and American Samoa while strengthening partnerships with Tonga, Kiribati, and the broader Oceania region. Their versatility and professionalism supported the Coast Guard's interest in maritime safety and advanced the shared interests of the United States and our Pacific neighbors.

These accomplishments are particularly noteworthy because they represent the type of work that often occurs outside the public spotlight. The crew's efforts required long days at sea, adaptability in the face of changing conditions, and a willingness to serve far from family and home. Their dedication helped ensure that critical missions were carried out effectively and that longstanding relationships throughout Oceania continued to grow stronger.

At a time when the Pacific region faces evolving challenges and opportunities, the service of the Hollyhock's crew demonstrates the enduring value of American engagement and partnership. Their work reflects the Coast Guard's proud tradition of readiness, cooperation and service to others.

I strongly support the Coast Guard and the resources necessary to carry out its broad and demanding missions. The accomplishments of the Hollyhock crew serve as a reminder of the remarkable men and women who make those missions possible through their skill and dedication.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Commander Jessica McCollum and every member of the Hollyhock crew on the successful completion of this patrol. On behalf of the people of Hawaii, I offer mahalo for their service and for representing our state and our Nation with distinction throughout the Pacific.

HONORING MAYRA RAMOS 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 Mayra Ramos as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Caribbean Heritage Month.

Mayra Ramos is a senior human resources professional specializing in MedTech engineering and supply chain, currently supporting surgical robotics projects and known for building high-impact technical teams while elevating hiring standards within the medical device industry. She brings a strategic, structured approach to talent acquisition, delivering comprehensive candidate evaluations, aligned talent strategies, and executive-ready insights that enable confident and effective hiring decisions.

Beyond her core recruiting expertise, Mayra has made meaningful contributions to the broader Human Resources function within medical devices, helping shape talent pipelines, and strengthen organizational capabilities in a highly specialized and regulated environment.

In parallel with her professional career, Mayra is a graduate mental health student who supports clients in a private practice setting, reflecting her deep commitment to individual well-being and holistic care. Her work bridges both organizational and personal impacts, supporting people not only in their careers but also in their personal growth and mental health journeys.

Mayra is actively engaged in service and community leadership. She has participated in mission trips dedicated to supporting underserved populations, demonstrating her commitment to global service and compassion-driven impact. She is also a dedicated member of her faith community, where she contributes through service, teaching, and organizing conferences focused on empowering women and supporting single mothers.

Her global perspective is shaped by international travel across Costa Rica, where she traveled for professional work, North America, Europe, and the Middle East, enriching her cultural awareness and ability to connect with diverse populations.

Based in Florida, Mayra continues to lead with purpose, integrating Human Resources strategy, mental health advocacy, and community service to create meaningful, lasting impact across both professional and personal spheres.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS IN FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS MEDICAL CARE ACT OF 2026

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Fairness in Federal Bureau of Prisons Medical Care Act of 2026. This bill would eliminate the copay the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) imposes on individuals in its custody when they visit a health care provider.

Under BOP rules, individuals in its custody are required to "pay a fee for health services of \$2.00 per health care visit." While \$2 may seem insignificant, individuals in BOP custody earn only twelve to forty cents per hour on their work assignments. Moreover, while copays can reduce unnecessary visits, we should be encouraging individuals in BOP custody to seek medical care before their conditions worsen and become more expensive for taxpayers. Preventive and early care are better for patients and taxpayers than costly treatments.