

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.

Under BOP rules, if an individual in BOP custody is found responsible through the disciplinary hearing process of having caused an injury to another person in BOP custody that required a visit to a health care provider, the offending individual is required to pay the \$2 copay for the injured individual's visit. That rule would not change under this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 101ST BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT STEPHENSON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 101st birthday of Mr. Robert Stephenson, a proud member of the Greatest Generation, whose life of military service, entrepreneurial achievement, family devotion, and community leadership stands as an example for all Americans.

Born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 14, 1925, Robert Stephenson came of age during the Great Depression. Through hardship and sacrifice, he developed the values of hard work, honesty, and perseverance that would guide him throughout his remarkable century of life. After graduating from high school in 1943, he enlisted in the United States Navy at the age of 17 and answered his Nation's call during World War II. Serving as a Yeoman, Mr. Stephenson managed personnel and aerial mapping records for Photographic Squadron VD-2 aboard naval vessels supporting operations in the Pacific Theater. His work contributed to the planning and execution of military operations during one of the most consequential periods in world history. He completed his service honorably in 1946.

Following his military service, Mr. Stephenson continued to embody the spirit of determination and service. He pursued studies in accounting through night classes at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania before embarking on a successful business career. In 1964, he founded RL Stephenson Incorporated, building a company that grew into a respected enterprise and creating opportunities for future generations of his family.

Equally impressive is Mr. Stephenson's devotion to family. He shared 75 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Helene, and together they raised three children while building a legacy that now includes grandchildren and great grandchildren. Even as he celebrated his 101st birthday, Mr. Stephenson remained active in both his business and daily life, continuing to exemplify the values that have defined his extraordinary journey.

Throughout his life, Mr. Stephenson has emphasized the importance of honesty, fairness, and treating others with respect. Those principles, learned in childhood and strengthened through military service, have guided his actions for over a century and continue to inspire those around him.

As we recognize Robert Stephenson's 101st birthday, we also celebrate a life well lived. One marked by service to country, commitment to family, professional accomplishment, and unwavering integrity. On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend sincere gratitude for his service and offer my best wishes

for continued health and happiness. May his example continue to inspire future generations of Americans.

HONORING CHARLES B. ROBERTSON AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Charles B. Robertson as a Distinguished Leader in Central Florida for Military Appreciation Month. Dr. Charles B. Robertson served in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman for four years during the Vietnam War. He was on the USS Forrestal in 1967 when it had a fire in the Gulf of Tonkin that took the lives of 134 men. In his second tour in Vietnam, from 1968 to 1969, he was a member of a Military Provincial Health Assistance Program (MILPHAP Team) in Quang Tri, comprising one medical doctor and 15 corpsmen, assigned to medically treat civilians.

He subsequently worked for several government contracting companies. At PRC System Services Company, he was the contract manager for the design of the landing strip and conversion of pads 39A and 39B from the Apollo/Saturn program to the Space Shuttle program at Kennedy Space Center. He was later presented with a certificate, signed by John Young and Bob Crippen, with a silk American flag which was on board the first space shuttle, launched on April 12, 1981. At Martin Marietta in Orlando, he became the director of Air-Launched Missile Systems subcontracts after negotiating with the U.S. Air Force to produce the LANTIRN Program. He was responsible for \$1.5 billion of a \$3 billion contract. He was named "Subcontracts Employee of the Year." He then worked at ICSD Corporation in Poinciana Industrial Park, where he served as director of programs. He later negotiated the sale of ICSD to DBA Systems, Inc., headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, a 5,000-employee company specializing in Electro-Optical and Imaging Systems. He then became the vice president and corporate secretary of DBA Systems. He later negotiated the sale of DBA Systems to Titan Corporation in San Diego, California, and left the company in 1999. During this period, he completed his studies and obtained a bachelor's degree in business administration and economics, as well as M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in business management.

Dr. Robertson started a custom home-building company in St. Cloud, Florida, in 2000. He subsequently became the president of the Home Builders Association of Metro Orlando, the area vice president of the Florida Home Builders Association, and sat on the Boards of Directors of the local, state, and national Association of Home Builders (NAHB). He was awarded "Contractor of the Year" in 2005 by the local association and was selected by the NAHB to build the showcase home, "The New American Home," on Lake Nona for the 2008 NAHB convention held in Orlando, Florida. On February 20, 2006, the Board of County Commissioners of Osceola County proclaimed

February 21, 2006, Charles "Charlie" Robertson Day, honoring him for his commitment to Osceola County.

Dr. Robertson also served on other Boards of Directors, including the Education Foundation of Osceola County, the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce, the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, the St. Cloud Little League, and the Board of Advisors for the College of Engineering at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Florida. He supports the Museum of Military History in Kissimmee, Florida. He served as an elder at E3 Community Church in Orlando, Florida, and participated in "Kids Beach Club," a Bible-based after-school program that taught elementary children Christian life principles. He also coached many years in the baseball and football leagues in St. Cloud, Florida.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CARMEN BLOOM-HARVEY

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 29, 2026

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mrs. Carmen Bloom-Harvey on earning the title, "Mrs. East Coast International 2026."

Carmen's journey to the Mrs. International stage has been special and unique. Through her platform and influence, she promoted her "Welcome Without Worry" initiative that raises awareness about the seriousness of food allergies, advocates for inclusive practices in schools and public spaces, and helps parents gain the confidence and tools they need to advocate for and protect their children. Her three-year-old son, Charlie, has severe food allergies and experienced anaphylaxis twice. Carmen's advocacy not only helps her son, but every child who suffers from severe allergies to feel safe, included, and understood in school, on sports teams, and elsewhere. In the future, she hopes to work with community organizations, speak at local events, and use her platform to support increased awareness and preparedness regarding food allergy safety.

Outside of pageantry, Carmen is a full-time attorney who leads a state school boards association, instructs a group fitness class at a YMCA, and carries the critical roles of mother and wife. Her pageant experience gives her the opportunity to amplify a mission that affects millions of individuals and families, and her advocacy is driven by love of her son and a commitment to creating a world where every child may completely and confidently participate in life.

From July 21 to July 24, 2026, Carmen will compete for "Mrs. International" in Chicago, a pageant developed 37 years ago with higher standards than other pageant systems, and the focus of which is to showcase women 21 to 56 years of age, married at least six months, and a resident of the state/citizen of the country she represents. Each contestant has the opportunity to select a platform of her choice, which she spends the year promoting. As a contestant for Mrs. International and a representative of the "Welcome Without Worry" platform, Carmen is proud to stand as a representative of advocacy, leadership, and inclusion for individuals with allergies, highlighting that allergies should not stop them from fulfilling their dreams.