

Randy. Following the tragic loss of their son Robert in 1968, Roger and Sandra persevered through hardship and spent nearly three decades together. Today, their legacy continues through their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all those inspired by their example. Roger currently resides in Winter Park, Florida, where he is cared for by his son Ronnie and daughter-in-law Stephanie, though he has never lost his deep connection to Lowell, the city he proudly calls home and where his family's legacy was built.

Roger's legacy extends far beyond his accomplishments as an athlete, businessman, or community leader. He is remembered for his generosity, his unwavering support of young people, his pride in the City of Lowell, and his commitment to helping others succeed. Through every stage of his life, he embodied the values of determination, humility, and service, leaving an enduring impact on the countless individuals whose lives he touched.

Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, Roger is known for his deep love of family and friends, the kindness he shows to those around him, and his extraordinary leadership, mentorship, and commitment to community service. His contributions to athletics, business, and the people of Lowell have strengthened the fabric of the city and created a legacy that will endure for generations, one defined by service, generosity, and impact. His legacy is truly unforgettable and everlasting.

REMEMBERING MR. ROBERT
HUNTER

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of the late Mr. Robert Hunter, a man whose influence can be seen and felt throughout our community by students, colleagues, and community members throughout Western New York.

Mr. Hunter was born on October 15, 1967, in Buffalo, New York, to Mr. Nolford Hunter and Mrs. Rosa Lee Hunter. Throughout his life, Robert inspired others with his strength, compassion, love of education, and faith in the Lord. He cherished every moment shared with his family and students. He was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. Mr. Hunter excelled academically, attending Buffalo Public Schools from kindergarten through twelfth grade, and later furthering his education by graduating from SUNY Erie Community College, completing course work in its Early Childhood Center. His work in the center sparked his passion for youth education, and he continued his studies by earning his Bachelor's Degree from SUNY Buffalo State, and earning his Master's Degree in Education from Medaille University.

Following his graduation, Mr. Hunter began a career in education that lasted more than two decades, teaching elementary students throughout Western New York before transitioning to the Buffalo Public School System in 2006. During his tenure, Mr. Hunter served at Grabiarsz Campus School Community No. 79, Community School No. 53, and

International School No. 45, where he taught general studies and guided students and families through their academic and personal development. He was known best for his patience, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to his students, making a lasting impact on countless young lives.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Hunter remained deeply committed to his students and community. He was a member of the Prince Hall Masons Elijah Abram No. 418, where he served as both treasurer and recording secretary. He also participated in the Dads Anointed Delivering Sons (D.A.D.S.) Program, coached the NYCYO Orioles Baseball team, and served as a Union Delegate for Buffalo Public Schools through the Buffalo Teachers Federation.

His greatest joy was his marriage of more than three decades to his wife, Dawn Cherelle (Hubbard) Hunter, the loving couple shared the blessing of two children, Taylor (Lee) Hunter and Miles Hunter. He was a faithful member of New A.M.E. Zion Church, where he served in multiple leadership roles, including Preacher's Steward, Usher, Trustee, and Director of Men of Zion, reflecting his deep commitment to faith and service.

Mr. Robert Hunter lived a life of devotion to his family, students, community, and faith. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his compassion towards others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Mr. Hunter was a man who believed in the importance of education, family, and faith above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and warmth will forever be remembered. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward the values he lived by: faith, education, and above all, love.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
WILLARD SHEPARD

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Lieutenant Colonel Willard Shepard for 28 years of distinguished service in the United States Air Force Reserves.

Lt. Colonel Shepard is retiring from active duty at U.S. Southern Command in Doral, Florida, to become a member of the Civil Air Patrol at Opa Locka Coast Guard Air Station Miami, which is located in Congressional District 24.

Lt. Colonel Shepard is also an award winning journalist, attorney and mentor to hundreds of Miami-Dade County School students. He serves as the United States Air Force academic liaison officer, in Congressional District 24; helping students obtain ROTC scholarships and appointments to the United States Air Force Academy.

As a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project, Lt. Colonel Shepard is an inspiration to hundreds of young men, and middle and high school students. He is a shining example of what can be achieved through education, hard work and dedication.

Lt. Colonel Shepard is a graduate of the Florida International University College of Law and specializes in media and aviation legal

issues. He graduated cum laude from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with a Bachelors Degree in Communications and Theater, and he is a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Officer Training School in San Antonio, Texas.

Please join me in honoring Lt. Colonel Willard Shepard for his many years of distinguished service to our country, as a United States Air Force Pilot, and for his unwavering commitment to our young people and our community.

HONORING FALLAH HEARD,
KNOWN AS "FALLAH THE FOODIE"

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Fallah Heard, widely known as "Fallah the Foodie," a passionate entrepreneur, social media influencer, and community advocate whose work is helping shine a spotlight on Mississippi's vibrant culinary scene.

A native of Byram, Mississippi, Ms. Heard developed a love for food and community at an early age. Inspired by family traditions and a desire to connect with others, she transformed her passion into a platform that celebrates local restaurants and the hardworking people behind them. What began as sharing food experiences online has grown into a respected voice that highlights businesses throughout Jackson and surrounding communities.

Through her social media presence, Ms. Heard has become a champion for locally owned restaurants, helping introduce residents and visitors alike to the unique flavors and dining experiences available across Mississippi. Her authentic approach and genuine enthusiasm have helped increase visibility for many small businesses, contributing to their growth and success while encouraging greater appreciation for the state's rich food culture.

Beyond reviewing restaurant, Ms. Heard is committed to fostering community connections and creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs. She has organized events that bring together food vendors, business owners, and residents, helping strengthen relationships and support economic development within the region. Her efforts reflect a deep belief in the power of food to bring people together and build stronger communities.

Ms. Heard's work has also helped elevate Jackson's reputation as a destination for exceptional dining experiences. Through her advocacy and promotion of local establishments, she continues to demonstrate the important role that small businesses play in the economic and cultural vitality of our communities.

Her dedication, creativity, and commitment to uplifting others serve as an inspiration to many. By using her platform to support local businesses and celebrate Mississippi's culinary talent, Ms. Heard is making a lasting impact on communities throughout our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Fallah Heard for her outstanding contributions to Mississippi's restaurant industry, her support of small businesses, and her continued efforts to showcase the best of our state.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I missed one vote on June 30, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 232 on the adoption of H. Con. Res. 108, Directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in Lebanon.

REMEMBERING MR. NATHANIEL FOUNTAIN, SR.

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of the late Mr. Nathaniel Fountain, Sr., a man whose influence can be seen and felt throughout our Western New York community and beyond.

Mr. Fountain, Sr. was born on September 6, 1940, in Gosport, Alabama to Mr. Robert Fountain and Ms. Lucy Thomas. Throughout his life, Nathaniel Fountain, Sr. inspired others with his strength, integrity, and compassion. His greatest joy was his role as a devoted husband to his wife, Mrs. Gwendolyn Fountain and father to Mr. Darold Fountain, Nathaniel Fountain Jr., Yolanda Turner, Quinisha Carter, Comanisha Slade, and "bonus son" Alphonse Patton. He was later blessed to have numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, nurturing them with the same kindness and care he gave to everyone in his life.

Mr. Fountain, Sr. was raised with the strong support of his family from the very beginning, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of his life. He excelled academically, and upon completion of high school, he later enlisted in the United States Army. His service was marked by extraordinary dedication, and he was honorably discharged after completing his commitment to the United States. The discipline, leadership, and resilience he developed during his time in the military would go on to shape his professional approach and contribute significantly to his careers later in life. He had a deep love and compassion for others, which he expressed through his role as a devoted community member, and owner of Phoenix Windows, and Northland Hardware.

Mr. Nathaniel Fountain, Sr. lived a life of devotion to his family and community. His unwavering commitment to those he loved and his compassion towards others made a profound impact on all who knew him. Mr. Fountain, Sr. was a man who believed in the importance of family, and community above all else and worked tirelessly to support those around him. His kindness, loyalty, and warmth will forever be remembered. Let us continue to honor his legacy by carrying forward the values he lived by: family, respect, and above all, love.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE ORIGINAL FLORIDA HALL OF FAME HIGHWAYMEN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen. They are a group of 26 named and listed landscape artists who have been called "The Last Great American Art Movement of the 20th Century." These self-taught and self-mentoring African American Artists were able to define themselves against the many racial and cultural barriers of the time in which they painted, and created a body of work of over two hundred thousand paintings.

The Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, from Fort Pierce, Florida, began painting in the early 1950's and created large numbers of relatively inexpensive landscape paintings, which were done using construction materials rather than art supplies. As no galleries would accept their works, they sold them in towns and cities and along roadsides throughout Florida, often still wet, out of the trunks of their cars.

Following the death of one of their members in 1970, the remaining members created fewer works and productivity waned. However, after being re-discovered in the 1990's, they have become celebrated for their idyllic landscapes of natural settings in Florida.

In 2004, the 26 Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen were inducted into the Florida Artist Hall of Fame. In addition to becoming part of Florida's culture and history; they have also received international recognition.

Eight of the original members are now deceased, but the remaining members, most now into their 70's and 80's, continue to paint to this day. Despite racial barriers and obstacles, their success and longevity are remarkable.

Please join me in honoring the Original Florida Hall of Fame Highwaymen, for their dedication to their craft and their contributions to art in the state of Florida and around the world.

RECOGNIZING THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of The Toledo Museum of Art as we in Ohio's 9th Congressional District commemorate its 125th anniversary of serving our community and the many visitors from across the globe that visit the museum each year.

Located in Toledo's Old West End, our art museum was founded in 1901 by benefactor Edward Drummond Libbey. Libbey is often considered the father of the glass industry here in Toledo, having opened the Libbey Glass Company, paving the way for Toledo's "Glass City" moniker, which we still hold

today. His generous endowment continues to fund art purchases and operations, contributing to his wish that our museum be a global leader in the museum field.

The endowment is currently helping to fund a large reinstallation project, adding new galleries and renovating existing ones. It is a lens through which I think we can all view the evolution of our country. By both preserving the history of what has been and reimagining what is to come, our Toledo Museum of Art remembers what is important and seeks to better itself for the generations to come.

Our museum also invites its visitors to view life differently through art as they strive to integrate art into people's everyday lives. This mission has led to a USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice award of Best Art Museum in the USA, furthermore cementing our museum as one of the best in the world. Its 37-acre campus is home to more than 30,000 works of art, from famed impressionist Vincent van Gogh and passionate Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens to American artists Andy Warhol and Thomas Cole. In its dedication to the people of Northwest Ohio, our museum also showcases local artists and has an expansive exhibit on Toledo's glass industry.

What a tremendous milestone for our city and The Toledo Museum of Art to reach in the same year that our Nation celebrates her 250th anniversary. Institutions like The Toledo Museum of Art play such a pivotal role in the development and culture of the United States of America. Art museums allow us to preserve our own history while also giving us glimpses into the lives of others and an opportunity to dream of our future.

On this concurrent occasion of the museum's 125th anniversary and our Nation's 250th anniversary, let us remember Mr. Libbey's words during the museum's dedication—that it be a "memory of the past," an "understanding of the . . . present," and a means of "increasing understanding" for the future.

That wish has certainly taken hold with the hard work of its leadership team and the ever-green support of our Northwest Ohio community. I commend this remarkable achievement and look forward to the future of one of our region's and Nation's finest cultural institutions.

HONORING MEL TONASKET

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Representative MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER and Representative KIM SCHRIER to join many in the Pacific Northwest community and Indian country to honor Mel Tonasket, a leader and member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Mel is retiring this week after more than 55 years of service to his tribe, community, and country.

After serving the Nation in the U.S. Navy, Mel worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for eight years before being elected in 1970 to the Colville Business Council, the governing body of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Mel would continue to serve on the Colville Business Council as a representative of the district serving Omak, Washington, at