

various times for the next 55 years, which concludes with his well-earned retirement.

Mel helped lead the Colville Tribes and Indian country during one of the most consequential periods in modern tribal history. He was part of the generation of Native leaders who sought to reverse the federal policy of termination and fought to preserve the rights and future of tribal communities. That work helped protect the sovereignty of the Colville Tribes and contributed to a broader movement that reshaped federal Indian policy.

Mel's impact extended well beyond his reservation. From 1973 to 1976, he served for four years as President of the National Congress of American Indians, the largest and oldest national tribal organization in the United States. While President, he helped mobilize national support for landmark legislation, including the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. Between breaks serving on the Colville Business Council, Mel worked for the Indian Health Service and retired from federal service as the CEO of the Colville Service Unit, which provides healthcare to citizens of the Colville Tribes.

Over the course of his career, Mel served in numerous leadership roles and has represented Tribal governments in national and international forums. Through that leadership, he strengthened the voice of tribal nations at the national level and helped secure protections and opportunities that continue to benefit Native families and communities today.

It is my honor to join the Colville Tribes, the people of Washington State, and all those throughout Indian Country in congratulating Mel Tonasket on this remarkable milestone. We wish Mel the best of luck in his retirement and hope he can create more memories in this next stage of his life.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CARMINA WOOD DESIGN

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 recognize the 25th anniversary of Carmina Wood Design. For the past quarter century, Carmina Wood Design has transformed the landscape of Western New York with remarkable projects that have enhanced our communities.

With a talented team of 40 associates across two offices, the firm has consistently delivered solutions for businesses throughout the region, helping to spur community development and growth. Guided by the principle that no two projects are alike, the firm tailors its approach to meet the unique needs and goals of every client.

Since its founding, Carmina Wood Design has transformed the landscape of Western New York with remarkable projects that have enhanced our communities. From the historic Hotel Lafayette to the redesigned Buffalo City Mission, and 43 North, Carmina Wood Design has continually set the standard for community development. Its developments have created thousands of jobs and revitalized neighbor-

hoods, ensuring that both businesses and communities thrive.

Carmina Wood Design has grown into one of the most successful and trusted architecture firms in our region, building a legacy of innovative design and transformative projects that enhance commercial and residential properties across Western New York while enriching the communities they serve.

I congratulate Steve Carmina, Christopher Wood, and the entire Carmina Wood Design team on this extraordinary 25 year journey. Their unwavering commitment to excellence and community enhancement has made a lasting impact on Western New York.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL MARK C. TURNER, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Army National Guard Colonel and Chief of Intelligence and Security, Mark C. Turner, on his retirement after a remarkable 30-year career in service to his country.

A native of Rolla, Missouri, Colonel Turner graduated from Missouri State University in 1996 with a B.S. in Communications. Immediately after graduation, Colonel Turner accepted his first commission as an officer in the United States Army National Guard. Colonel Turner's educational aspirations didn't stop after his commission, and he would go on to earn an MBA from William Woods University and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Colonel Turner's first deployment came in December of 2002, when he deployed with the 35th Infantry Division to Bosnia & Herzegovina where he served as the Analysis and Control Element Battle Captain. Colonel Turner had two further deployments in Iraq, where he served as a Tactical Intelligence Officer and as an Intelligence Trainer.

Throughout his military career, Colonel Turner held various leadership positions including Company Commander, Brigade Intelligence Officer, Intelligence Systems Branch Chief, Force Integration Chief, Intelligence Programs Division, Battalion Commander, ISR Division Chief and Senior Army National Guard Advisor to HQDA. Finally, since achieving the rank of Colonel in 2021, he has held the position of Chief of Intelligence and Security for the Army National Guard in Arlington, Virginia.

Throughout this long and illustrious career, Colonel Turner admirably served his Nation and proudly upheld the core American ideals of freedom, liberty, and justice for all. In recognition of his heroic service, Colonel Turner received numerous commendations including a Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and Army Commendation Medal. He also received the distinguished 2022 Knowlton Award from the Military Intelligence Corps Association, recognizing him for his incredible integrity, moral character, professional competence, and leadership.

Colonel Turner's career is exemplary of the kind of service all Americans should aspire to.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize this great Missourian's sacrifice and heroism. I also recognize and thank Colonel Turner's wife, Carrie, and his daughters, Lauren and Sydney, for their bravery and sacrifice. The price of freedom is high, and no one knows this better than the families of our brave soldiers.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Colonel Turner on an exemplary and distinguished career and to wish him and his family the best in a very well-deserved retirement.

HONORING ELIJAH WELLS

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 congratulate 14-year-old Elijah Wells for his artistic contributions to Miami Dade County.

This year, Elijah Wells successfully submitted his first short film, "The Gift," to the American Black Film Festival Community Showcase. He wrote, casted, and directed "The Gift" on his own and his short film will be screened at the American Black Film Festival Community Showcase on June 24, 2012.

Aside from successfully completing his first short film, Mr. Wells has accomplished many other feats. In November 2011, he received "The Clint Eastwood Award." This award honored his achievements in acting and directing. Mr. Wells has also had the opportunity to hone his directing skills under the mentorship of film visionaries, like Reggie Scott and Steve Drayton.

Mr. Wells' artistic and directorial works, especially his film "The Gift," are not only personal accomplishment but one the entire community can be proud of. The American Black Film Festival Community Showcase is sponsored by the Southeast Overtown/Parkwest Community Redevelopment Agency, which fosters and displays the talents of our youth. Mr. Wells' accomplishments are a testament to the agency's importance in our community.

Mr. Wells' passion for taking pictures, which started at the age of ten, has developed into a defined career path that promises to take him to places and heights beyond his imagination.

Please join me in honoring Elijah Wells for his artistic accomplishment and his unwavering commitment to the advancement of the arts in the community of Miami Dade.

RECOGNIZING SENIOR POLICE OFFICER STEVEN SNYDER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Senior Police Officer Steven Snyder on the occasion of his retirement from the Euless Police Department.

Officer Snyder has dedicated his life to service. Before beginning his career in law enforcement, he served our Nation as a Gunner

Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps from 1972 to 1994. Following his military service, he joined the City of Euless in July 1999 as a Police Officer and was promoted to Senior Police Officer in May 2003. Throughout his career, he has served with distinction as a Detective and Crime Scene Investigator.

Officer Snyder's commitment to public safety, professionalism, and excellence has left a lasting impact on the Euless community. His extensive training in crime scene investigation, counterterrorism, gang intelligence, forensic pathology, and emergency response reflects his dedication to continually strengthening his ability to serve and protect others.

In 2011, Officer Snyder was named Euless Police Officer of the Year, and he has received numerous letters of commendation throughout his career. His dedication to service also extends beyond the department through his involvement with organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Brotherhood of the Fallen, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Shriners.

I thank Officer Steven Snyder for his many years of honorable service to our Nation, the City of Euless, and the people of North Texas. I congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and wish him all the best in this next chapter.

HONORING JOE CAMINITI

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable constituent, Joe Caminiti of Bristol, a 101-year-old World War II veteran whose service record includes storming the beaches of Iwo Jima and liberating Guam.

At age 18, Mr. Caminiti left school to join the US Marine Corps on behalf of his Nation. After training at Parris Island and Camp Lejeune, Mr. Caminiti was deployed with the 3rd Amphibian Tractor Battalion to New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and Guam.

Once Guam was liberated, the Marines set their sights on Iwo Jima, an island used by the Japanese military to launch airplanes that attacked Saipan and American bombers. The heavily fortified island had been under bombardment for 66 days, but the military was still unable to take control.

Mr. Caminiti was part of the 10th wave landing at Iwo Jima. While offloading troops, his amphibious tractor took on water and became difficult to steer. As his tractor returned a second time to replenish supplies, the tractor stalled on the beach, and Mr. Caminiti repaired it while Japanese snipers were firing. The following morning, Mr. Caminiti returned to the beach, shuttling soldiers and supplies to the island, returning with the wounded for treatment aboard a ship docked offshore, saving the lives of many American soldiers.

Mr. Caminiti still remembers seeing the flag raised over Mt. Suribachi, now one of the most famous photos in history. "We never thought it was going to be a historical thing. The first time, you couldn't really see it. They called for a bigger flag. I saw the bigger flag go up. We had a clear look at it. We looked right at it, and I said, 'it's about time!'"

After spending more than a month on Iwo Jima, Mr. Caminiti embarked to Maui, Hawaii, to retrieve new equipment to be used in the invasion of Japan. Before they could redeploy, Japan had surrendered to the US, and the war had ended.

Returning to the U.S., Mr. Caminiti met and married Germaine La Fleur, with whom he raised his three children. Mr. Caminiti's service to his community did not end with his military service. He helped raise funds to construct an Iwo Jima Memorial in Connecticut, volunteered at his church, and fundraised for the Woody William Foundation.

In 2025, Mr. Caminiti returned to Iwo Jima, now called Iwo To, to participate in remembrance services. He placed one of three wreaths alongside the Japanese Prime Minister, and he carried with him leaflets containing the names of the 100 soldiers from Connecticut who died during the Battle of Iwo Jima, which he circulated during his trip.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I extend my gratitude to Joe Caminiti for his service to our country.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF MR. HUEY SCARVER, 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 today to honor and celebrate the 90th birthday of Mr. Huey Scarver, Sr., a shining example of resilience, grace, and unwavering dedication to his family, his profession, and the community he has long called home. Born on June 27, 1936, in Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Scarver was raised with strong leadership and focus, traits that shaped the man he is today. He moved to Buffalo as a young man in May 1966, attending E.R. Carter Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School, and later studying at and graduating from Buffalo State University. He was raised to have strong faith and love for the Lord, which has helped him during his time as a deacon at various churches in the Buffalo area.

Mr. Scarver, Sr. has had many accomplishments throughout his lifetime. Beyond being a devoted husband to his wife, Mrs. Diane Scarver, for the last 47 years, he is the proud father of six children Dinesha Scarver, De'Mar Scarver, Huey Banks, Huey Seamen Jr., Natasha Floyd, and Guzzardi Scarver. His biggest professional accomplishment was when he joined the local IBEW 41, the local electrical workers union in Buffalo, where he worked as an electrician for 30 years. Before joining the union, he worked for Bethlehem Steel for a decade before making his transition into electrical work. When he is not working or with his family, Mr. Scarver, Sr. enjoys fishing, bowling, traveling, and spending time with his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

It is an honor to celebrate Mr. Huey Scarver, Sr., a man who dedicated his life to serving the Lord and his family. He is a man of many talents whose influence will precede him. His deep faith led him to become a member of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and more recently, a member of Friendship Baptist

Church. On this milestone birthday, we celebrate the extraordinary life, continuing legacy, and profound impact Mr. Scarver, Sr. has made on his loved ones and the community he has served.

HONORING DR. GLORIA WILLIAMS

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 one of South Florida's most respected and heralded religious leaders, Dr. Gloria Williams. She is the Pastor and co-founder of Jesus People Ministries Church International Incorporated, located in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Dr. Williams is a woman who walks in faith and higher education. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Florida International University. Dr. Williams has received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from All Nations for Christ Institute International; previously affiliated with Oral Roberts University. Her administrative gifts and skills have proven vital to the Church and her ministry.

Dr. Williams is the Chief Overseer of the Right Connection Association and the executive producer and host of the weekly broadcast "Right Connection," which is seen nationally and worldwide. The broadcast affords Dr. Williams the opportunity to challenge and encourage her followers to develop and mature in their faith. She has been affectionately deemed a Christian role model and her dynamic character has proven to be an asset and an inspiration.

Dr. Williams is the proud mother of daughter Richelle and wife of the late Bishop Isaiah S. Williams, Jr.

Please join me in honoring Dr. Gloria Williams Pastor and co-founder of Jesus Ministries Church International for unwavering faith and commitment to her congregation and to her community.

CELEBRATING THE TABERNACLE CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pillar of faith, perseverance, and community in the Bronx, the Tabernacle Church of God Pillar and Ground of the Truth, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Founded on July 11, 1976, by Bishop E. Henri-Mundle and Evangelist Lurline Henri-Mundle, Tabernacle began humbly in a YMCA in White Plains. What followed was a journey defined not by ease, but by extraordinary faith. When the doors closed, the congregation pressed forward. When resources were scarce, they built anyway. When challenges came—and they came often—they stood firm, declaring that "the God of heaven will prosper us."

From storefront worship on White Plains Road to the construction of a permanent sanctuary built by the hands of Bishop Henri-