

which is rather fitting, given that this is the same community where their story began. Their commemoration coincides with our nation's 250th anniversary, a fitting reminder that Crane's history and our nation's history are deeply and forever intertwined.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the U.S. Treasurer and Crane Currency in celebrating this momentous occasion. I congratulate the Crane family and their tremendous workforce on 225 years of driving innovation, cementing their legacy in Berkshire County and the nation. I have no doubt that this legacy will endure for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLUE WATER AREA TRANSIT

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Blue Water Area Transit on its 50th anniversary. Since beginning public transit operations in 1976, Blue Water Area Transit has played a vital role in connecting communities, supporting economic development, and providing accessible transportation for passengers.

Over the past 50 years, Blue Water Area Transit has provided more than 37 million passenger trips. Today, its fleet serves the communities of the City of Port Huron, Fort Gratiot Township, Port Huron Township, Burtchville Township, and the City of Marysville.

I want to thank the dedicated employees of Blue Water Area Transit, whose hard work and commitment have provided reliable service to the community, and recognize the leadership behind its continued success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Blue Water Area Transit on its 50th anniversary for its outstanding service to the people of St. Clair County. I congratulate Blue Water Area Transit on this remarkable milestone, and best wishes for many more years of success in serving the region's transportation needs.

REMEMBERING MR. CECILLO "CHILO" DIAZ, 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 commemorate the life of Mr. Cecilio "Chilo" Diaz, Sr., a beloved husband, father, brother, and friend whose love, compassion, and devotion to his family and community inspired all who knew him.

Mr. Diaz, Sr. was born on September 22, 1923 in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico, to Mr. Anicasio Diaz and Mrs. Maria Candelaria Diaz. Mr. Diaz, Sr. cherished every moment spent with his family—a life filled with love and compassion until his passing. His greatest joy was his role as a devoted husband to Petronila "Loly" Diaz, and father to Cecilio, Jr., Francisco, Teresita, Crucita, Jose Antonio, Mary Anne, David, Elizabeth, and Richard. He was later

blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nurturing them with the same love and kindness he gave to everyone in his life.

As a proud native of Puerto Rico, Mr. Diaz, Sr. was raised with the strong support of his family, helping to shape him into a natural leader in all aspects of life. For more than three decades, he worked as a Boiler Operator at Bethlehem Steel, where he was known for his strong work ethic, dedication, and unwavering commitment to his craft. He took great pride in his work and earned the respect of his colleagues throughout his long career.

Outside of his professional career, Mr. Diaz, Sr. remained deeply committed to his faith and family. He was a faithful member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Lackawanna, New York, serving as a minister and preaching the gospel to incarcerated individuals. One of the most treasured memories for those who knew him was his love for fishing, gardening, and playing dominos. Whether casting a line on a quiet morning, tending to his garden with care, or gathering with family and friends for a spirited game of dominoes, he found joy in life's simple pleasures and created lasting memories with those around him.

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

CONGRATULATING CHRISTINA RENE WALKER

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 a remarkable student and young adult, Ms. Christina Renea Walker, who through hard work and dedication has received acceptance letters to thirteen colleges and universities. She has also been awarded 268,000 dollars in academic scholarships and three thousand dollars in community scholarships.

The colleges and universities are: University of Miami, Lynn University, University of South Florida, University of Florida, University of Alabama, Louisiana State University, Tuskegee University, Howard University, Campbell University, New York Institute of Technology, St. Johns University, Mills College and the University of San Francisco.

Ms. Walker, who will be entering college as a sophomore in the fall, attended Northwestern Senior High School, in Miami, during her senior year, in order to take dual enrollment courses. These courses allowed her to take college courses early, under a program sponsored by Florida International University. The program is called "The Education Effect", and is funded by a one million dollar grant provided by Chase Bank.

Ms. Walker has chosen to attend the prestigious University of Florida. It is close to

home, but far enough where she can grow into an independent young adult. She also says "It is great to be a Florida Gator!"

While there have been many people who have played an important role in her life, Ms. Walker says her mother is her true inspiration. A strong, independent woman, who has taught her to love everyone; instilled Christ in her at a young age; taught her to believe in herself and trust God through every obstacle she faces.

Please join me in congratulating Ms. Christina Renea Walker, a shining example and motivating force for all young people who seek to better themselves through education and serve their communities.

RECOGNIZING MR. DAYLE ELLIS FOR OVER 35 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. EUGENE SIMON VINDMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Dayle Ellis for 36 years of Federal Service and his commitment to the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA).

Throughout his career, including as an administrative officer, Mr. Ellis has provided critical guidance to military families, helping them to navigate difficult K-12 education options and determine student eligibility as they transitioned between duty stations around the world. His expertise, professionalism, and compassion have ensured the families and students receive consistent support during some of the most challenging periods of military life.

Mr. Ellis's dedication has supported military retention, helped families navigate education options for their children, and contributed to the success of military communities across different branches. Countless families have benefited not only from the positive outcomes he has helped achieve but also from the care and unwavering commitment he has brought to every interaction. His service demonstrates DoDEA's mission of supporting military-connected students and their families with excellence and integrity.

I want to personally thank Mr. Ellis for the outstanding impact he has had on his colleagues, families, students, and the many individuals he has served over the past 36 years. His leadership and expertise reflect the very best of public service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Dayle Ellis for his service and the difference he has made in our communities. I wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement and in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE KING HIGH SCHOOL MATH STUDENTS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional group of students from King High School in Tampa Bay, whose

outstanding achievements have brought tremendous pride to our entire community.

Fifteen talented young mathematicians recently represented King High at the Mathematics Association of America's Mu Alpha Theta National Convention in Texas, one of the Nation's most prestigious high school mathematics competitions. Competing against the best mathematics students from across the country, these students demonstrated extraordinary skill, dedication, and perseverance, earning top 10 national finishes in every team division. I am especially proud to recognize Chan-Young Park, Mitul Shukla, Muhammad Taha, Ingrid Curtis, Alexander Heidrick, Yooan Kim, Anderson Lee, Alexia Steele, Lucas Chen, Jerry Lee, Frederick Li, Aiden Mathew, Satchel Puh, Alice Hu, and Sean Nishihori for their remarkable accomplishments. King High School's teams achieved an incredible level of success, with the Mu Division team finishing 5th in the Nation, the Alpha Division team finishing 9th in the nation, and the Theta Division team finishing 10th in the nation. The Mu Division calculus team's fifth-place national finish earned King High School recognition as the highest ranking public school calculus team in the country. The students' individual accomplishments were equally impressive. Alexander Heidrick earned 10th place overall in the Alpha Division Individual Competition, while Aiden Mathew earned 17th place overall in the highly competitive Mu Division Individual Competition.

These achievements are a testament to the students' hard work, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to excellence. They also reflect the dedication of their teachers, coaches, families, and the entire King High School community, who continue to inspire the next generation of innovators, scientists, engineers, and leaders. As our Nation continues to compete and lead in an increasingly complex world, programs that encourage mathematics, science, technology, and critical thinking are essential. The success of these students shows what is possible when we invest in education and empower young people to reach their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate these outstanding students and the King High School mathematics program for representing Florida with distinction. Their accomplishments serve as an inspiration to students throughout our state and across America.

RECOGNIZING WWII VETERAN RADIOMAN 3RD CLASS GEORGE KLEIN

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 Navy Radioman 3rd Class, George Klein, a distinguished World War II veteran and Western New York native born on April 11, 1926. He answered the call to serve during World War II, enlisting in the United States Navy in 1944 and displaying extraordinary bravery and dedication throughout his service. It is with great pride that we acknowledge this remarkable occasion today and reflect on the legacy of his contributions to both our Nation and our community.

While in the Pacific Theater, Radioman 3rd Class Klein honorably served our Nation, supporting his fellow servicemembers in the liberation of the Philippines and carrying out General MacArthur's vow that he would return. At a time when freedom was under attack across the globe by the forces of fascism and tyranny, it was brave Americans like Radioman 3rd Class Klein who defended our values, our way of life, and the lives of our allies across the globe.

Radioman 3rd Class Klein's journey began in Batavia, New York, where he attended Robert Morris School for elementary school and later graduated from Neumann High School. In 1946, Radioman 3rd Class Klein married his beloved wife of more than eight decades, Corrine (Owens) Klein, and their partnership was the foundation of his life. The loving couple are parents to Gregory, Geoffrey, Richard, and Robert. They were later blessed with six grandchildren, Rebecca, Matthew, Jason, Jena, Jason, and Marina, and seven great-grandchildren, Carter, Cameron, Brayden, Hannah, Bodhi, Ryan and the late Kayla, further enriching his life and legacy.

He has remained deeply connected to his family and fellow veterans. Later in his life, Radioman 3rd Class Klein answered the call to serve once again, this time through his faith, becoming a Deacon in 1992 after completing his studies at the East Aurora Seminary. Guided by a lifelong commitment to service, compassion, and community, he dedicated himself to supporting others, offering spiritual guidance, and strengthening the bonds that unite families, neighbors, and veterans alike. His unwavering devotion to both country and community reflects a life marked by honor, sacrifice, and service.

In recognition of his exemplary service, Radioman 3rd Class Klein received several prestigious honors. Among the medals he has earned are the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Honorable Discharge Button, and the Liberation Medal from the Philippines. These medals speak to his unwavering dedication and heroism during his service, and they are a fitting tribute to the sacrifices he made for our country.

It is an honor to recognize Radioman 3rd Class George Klein's unwavering devotion and exceptional service to both his country and his community. His lifelong dedication has set a remarkable standard for all of us, and his legacy will continue to inspire future generations. The people of the United States will never forget what George Klein, and his fellow soldiers, achieved during World War II to defend our freedom and democracy.

HONORING BARRINGTON IRVING

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 Mr. Barrington Irving for his devoted time and effort to reinvigorate the importance of education in the youth community.

Mr. Irving's life journey thus far is an inspirational story of dedication and commitment. He is an exemplary role model for students to continue pursuing their dreams.

Mr. Irving is the youngest person and first black pilot to fly around the world. To achieve his first flight around the world Mr. Irving reached out to many aviation companies for donated parts. After completing the construction of the Cessna 400 airplane, Mr. Irving titled the airplane the deserving title of "Inspiration."

In addition, Mr. Irving was recently recognized by National Geographic as one of the 15 new "Emerging Explorers" for 2012. The award recognizes pioneers in emerging fields, and sponsors them on their newest adventures.

In lieu of all his self accomplishments, Mr. Irving still puts the community first. He is the epitome of a selfless leader. Irving has dedicated his time to educating young minority students about engineering in aviation. He is going to use the benefits of his Emerging Explorer title to create the world's first virtual flying classroom.

Mr. Irving is a firm advocate of giving back to the community and encouraging students to strive toward their goals. He facilitates the importance of science and math in his "Experience Aviation" summer camp program. Experience Aviation is a non-profit organization, founded by Mr. Irving, dedicated to empowering minority youth to pursue careers in aviation.

Mr. Barrington Irving is a graduate of Miami Northwestern Senior High School. He also studied Aerospace at Florida Memorial University.

Please join me in honoring Mr. Barrington Irving for his many years of distinguished service to the aviation field, and also for his commitment to the betterment of youth minority for their future career endeavors.

CELEBRATING PASTOR KENNETH SIMMONS' 13TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY

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 celebrate the remarkable leadership and service of Pastor Kenneth Simmons as we honor his 13th Pastoral Anniversary at Cold Spring Bible Chapel. Pastor Simmons' influence extends far beyond the walls of the church, making a lasting impact on the lives of those in need. Along with First Lady Jamelle Simmons, Pastor Simmons has touched the hearts of countless individuals throughout our community. His work has inspired many to pursue positive change, creating a ripple effect of compassion and support that continues to shape the future of Western New York.

For over two decades, Pastor Simmons has dedicated his life to mentoring youth, aiding returning citizens in their re-entry to society, and supporting local organizations. He has worked tirelessly with little league sports organizations, block clubs, and street outreach programs, bringing hope and opportunity to countless families. One of his most notable contributions has been his work with the Youth Detention Center, where his efforts have transformed the facility, earning recognition from the State Office of Child and Family Services for turning it into a model for the entire state.