

The members of Delta Kappa Omega Foundation, Incorporated have demonstrated how the strength, talents and commitment of women working together, to implement the ideals of community service, can change a community for the better and improve the quality of life.

Please join me in honoring and recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of Delta Kappa Omega Foundation, Incorporated, and its long-standing legacy of service to this community.

HONORING BILLIE JOE FRAZIER

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Mr. Billie Joe Frazier.

Billie Joe Frazier is a graduate of Sadie V. Thompson High School. He attended Jackson State University before enlisting in the U.S. Navy, where he served from 1971 to 1974. He later joined the Natchez Police Department.

Mr. Frazier began his career with the Natchez Police Department in 1976, becoming one of the first 15 African Americans to serve as a police officer in the City of Natchez. During his 32 years of service, he held several leadership positions, including Patrol Supervisor and Supervisor of Jail Administration and Records.

Throughout his career, Mr. Frazier demonstrated courage, professionalism, and a deep commitment to his community. He was recognized as a community hero for rescuing two women trapped in a vehicle during a flood. He also survived being shot in the line of duty, yet continued to serve with dedication and resilience.

Mr. Frazier is married to Shelly "Shirley" Fitzgerald Frazier, and they have three daughters: Jarita Frazier-King, Courtney Frazier, and Skylar King-Frazier. They also have one son, Keimon B. Frazier, along with four beautiful grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, affectionately known as their "chocolate drop." Mr. Frazier is a deacon at Greater Mt. Sinai and currently serves as an alderman for the City of Natchez.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Billie Joe Frazier of Natchez, Mississippi, for his actions, achievements, and dedicated service to the Natchez community.

HONORING MARK BUYCK

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Mark Wilson Buyck, Jr. South Carolinians will always cherish the professionalism of Defense Attorney Mark Buyck as evidenced by his extraordinary success serving the public. A highlight of my life was in 1966, as a Washington and Lee University student, to poll watch for him at Mars Bluff Precinct in Florence, with his lead-

ership in founding the modern Republican Party in South Carolina. I include in the RECORD an inspiring obituary provided by Waters-Powell Funeral Home:

MARK WILSON BUYCK, JR.

Mark W. Buyck, Jr., 91, of Florence, passed away July 11, 2026.

Mr. Buyck was born on Christmas Day 1934, the son of Mark Wilson Buyck and Mary Otis Buyck. He graduated from Saint Matthews High School where he was President of the Senior Class, editor of the school's award-winning newspaper, and State President of the Beta Club, an honorary Scholastic Society.

He graduated from his beloved University of South Carolina with an A.B. in 1956 and its Law School in 1959. He served as a judge advocate in the US Air Force for three years following law school, including spending the first two years of his 66-year marriage in Turkey with his wife, the former Julia Willcox of Florence, where their first two children were born. He and Julia were inseparable and shared their numerous life activities together.

He retired from the Air Force Reserves as a Lt. Colonel. He served on the USC Board of Trustees for 28 years. He was a former member of the Board of Visitors of USC, Francis Marion University, and Winthrop University, receiving Honorary Degrees from both Francis Marion University and the University of South Carolina. He was a past president of the Greater USC Alumni Association and a former member of the State Board governing South Carolina's Technical College System. Mr. Buyck was active in local civic affairs, serving as president of the Florence Rotary Club, Florence Country Club, and Florence Little Theater. He was one of the founders of the Florence Heritage Foundation, the first Chairman of its Board, and President.

He was a member of the Florence County, South Carolina and American Bar Associations, and a past president of the S.C. Defense Trial Attorneys Association. He was a permanent member of the U.S. Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference, former United States Attorney for South Carolina, and past chairman of the University of South Carolina Law School Association.

Mr. Buyck was admitted to practice before all State and Federal Courts in South Carolina, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

He was a former member of the Federation of Insurance and Corporate Counsel, the National Association of Railroad Trial Counsel, a current member of the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American Board of Trial Advocates. He was past president of the S.C. Chapter of ABOTA and a former member of its National Board of Directors. Mr. Buyck was past Chairman of the National College of District Attorneys Committee of the American College of Trial Lawyers and a former Regent and Vice-President of the National College of District Attorneys.

Mr. Buyck was the past President of the South Carolina Historical Society. He served for a decade on the initial Advisory Board of the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the SC State Fair Association. He had been honored by two Governors of South Carolina with the Order of the Palmetto, the state's highest award, and had been listed in all published editions of the Best Lawyers in America. He received the prestigious honor of the Judge Hemphill Award for distinguished service to the legal profession and the public by the SC Defense Trial Attorneys Association and the Compleat Lawyer Award by the USC Law School. He was also the re-

cipient of the Judge Ralph K. Anderson, Jr. Award from the Florence County Bar Association, and the SC Bar DuRant Award for distinguished public service and outstanding leadership to his profession, community, state, and nation. The DuRant Award is presented by the South Carolina Bar Foundation and is considered the highest honor for a South Carolina lawyer. Some of his most significant criminal cases occurred while serving as U.S. Attorney and in civil cases he was involved in the S.C. Tobacco cases during his private practice.

Mr. Buyck was a member of the Board of Directors of The Bank of Clarendon. He served on the Board of Trustees and as Secretary of Drs. Bruce and Lee Foundation in Florence. He was on the MUSC Florence Hospital Board of Trustees and was a member of the Board of the SC State Ports Authority. Mr. Buyck was an attorney at Willcox, Buyck, and Williams, PA for over 60 years.

He was a lifelong horseman. He and Julia were engaged at the Carolina Cup, and he was a former member of the Camden Hunt. One of the happiest moments of his life was when his horse Show Court won the Carolina Cup in 2017. He and Julia were generous hosts, particularly for his family and friends on his Christmas birthdays at his home and at their cottage at Pawleys Island.

He was a parishioner of Saint Anthony Catholic Church, former president of the Parish Council, and former Parish School board chairman and a lector.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a grandson, Hugh Willcox Buyck, Jr.

Surviving are his wife, the former Julia Willcox of Florence and three children: Mark W. Buyck, III, (Virginia) of Florence, Julie B. McKissick (Charlie) of Greenville, and Hugh W. Buyck (Meredith) of Mt. Pleasant; eight grandchildren: Mark W. Buyck, IV, of Florence, Elizabeth B. Howell (Joseph) of Charleston, Brooks Buyck of Charleston, Charles McKissick, Jr. of Georgetown, Julia Smyth Anido (Andrew) of Greenville, Peter S. Buyck of Charleston; Coles Buyck of Mt. Pleasant; and his siblings, William Otis Buyck of Manning, Lynan B. Leding of Tampa, FL, and Susan B. Eckstein of Chapin.

HONORING BENJAMIN SIEGEL FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Benjamin Siegel, who is retiring after a decade of service as the City Manager of San Juan Capistrano, California. As a proud resident of San Juan Capistrano, I pay tribute to and celebrate his impact on the City and community in California's 49th District.

Ben Siegel has served as San Juan Capistrano's City Manager since 2016, providing leadership to facilitate the effective delivery of municipal services, management of City operations, and the negotiation and administration of contracts. Ben has over 20 years of municipal management experience, presides over the Orange County City Managers Association, and has extensive knowledge in the areas of land use and development, transportation, and public infrastructure. He is passionate about making government more efficient and improving service delivery to San Juan Capistrano's residents and businesses.

Ben holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UCLA, a Master of Public Administration from Cal State Fullerton, and a certificate in Construction and Development Management from UC Irvine. At Cal State Fullerton, Ben served on the Advisory Board for the Master of Public Administration program and created the City Management Fellowship Program, which enables high-performing graduate students to learn directly from local city managers. In honor of his contributions to the profession, Ben received the Stewardship Award from the Municipal Management Association of Southern California.

In San Juan Capistrano, Ben led the city with a focus on fiscal management, eliminating the structural budget deficit and allowing the city to build surpluses and invest in public safety, parks, and critical infrastructure. Under his leadership, the city has improved its roadways, expanded affordable housing development, and revitalized downtown San Juan Capistrano. Several recreational and cultural amenities have been added, including the San Juan Capistrano Skatepark, Windmill Park, and the Northwest Open Space Park with Putuidem Village.

Ben Siegel's commitment to San Juan Capistrano has facilitated the prosperity that the community enjoys today. I recognize and celebrate his decade of leadership in San Juan Capistrano and wish Ben the best in his retirement and success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUSAN
LASCOLETTE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Susan Lascolette, a cherished member of our community. Susan was an extraordinarily dedicated individual who worked tirelessly and persistently to make her country, commonwealth, and Nation a better place.

Susan had an impressive career as a Senior Insurance Underwriter with notable firms such as Maryland Casualty, Security Insurance, and Markel; not to mention Susan's significant civic contributions, where she served as District No. 1 Supervisor for Goochland County from 2012 to 2024 and was past President of the Goochland Republican Women. Susan was also an active member of the Goochland Republican Committee and served as member of the State Central Committee of the Republican Party of Virginia from 2016 representing the 7th and 5th Districts.

Her devotion to service was not only evident in her professional life, but in her personal life as well. Susan was deeply involved in the community, volunteering whenever she could, helping support causes such as Meals on Wheels, Goochland Cares, and the Goochland Fire Auxiliary. Susan's kindness touched everyone she met, and she leaves behind a legacy full of compassion and devotion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating Susan's incredible life. Our community is eternally grateful for everything she has done.

RECOGNIZING DR. ERHABOR
IGHODARO

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Erhabor Ighodaro, Ph.D. He is an accomplished educator, clergyman, public administrator and now, the first Nigerian American to serve as a Councilman for the city of Miami Gardens, which was incorporated on May 13, 2003. Dr. Ighodaro was appointed to serve as Councilman At-Large Seat 6, on September 12, 2012.

Dr. Ighodaro holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from Nova Southeastern University, and he has had a profound impact upon education in South Florida. He is an educator with a solid background in public management, urban justice, urban education, curricula design and implementation of best practices methodologies, educational public policy and the intervention and resolution of school and community-based conflict.

As Executive Director of the Dr. Robert B. Ingram Foundation, Dr. Ighodaro oversees the organization's signature READ to LEAD program and has awarded over 5000 scholarships to students in Miami Dade County Public Schools. The scholarships entitle students to an educational excursion of Black history sites that culminates in one of Florida's major theme parks.

He also serves as the Miami-Dade School District's Administrator for the Ingram Africa School Alliance (IASA), "Rites of Passage" project and leads a delegation of students, teachers and parents on the district's annual excursion and student exchange opportunities with schools in Africa. Dr. Ighodaro is the author of the groundbreaking publication "Curriculum Violence: America's New Civil Rights Issue."

Dr. Ighodaro is the president of the Nigerian American Foundation and serves on numerous community boards and civic organizations. He is an Associate Minister at Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a mentor with the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Project.

I am honored to recognize Dr. Erhabor Ighodaro for his unwavering dedication and commitment to education and to our community.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL
REDEDICATION OF THE ASTORIA
COLUMN

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a landmark occasion in Oregon's 1st Congressional District, the centennial rededication of the Astoria Column.

This July, Oregonians from across the coast will gather to celebrate the 100th birthday of a monument that has been a beacon in Astoria since 1926. The centennial has spurred a remarkable effort to restore this observatory so the column will stand tall on Coxcomb Hill for another century and beyond.

Wrapped around the towering sides of the magnificent Column is a sweeping pictorial history of our region. These scenes, brought to life by architect Electus Litchfield and the masterful sgraffito painting technique of Attilio Pusterla, form a historical tapestry that is truly one of a kind.

Yet, the significance of this site extends beyond the Column itself. Just behind it rests a small granite marker that commemorates an invention born here on the Oregon coast: cable television. It is a quiet reminder that Astoria has always been a place where innovation meets history.

I recall visiting this very spot, at a time with gusty winds and torrential sideways rain, with Senator MERKLEY just before a town hall meeting. A little Oregon rain didn't stop us from climbing the spiral steps and gazing out at the City of Astoria and the Pacific Ocean.

This monument is a symbol of the Astorian spirit and the rededication a demonstration of the determination to protect the exceptional art and heritage for generations yet to come.

This day is possible because several decades ago Friends of the Astoria Column was created to preserve the column. Through decades, Friends of the Astoria Column have cared for this important structure, raising funds to complete cleaning and restoration, and even projecting a light show onto the column. In 1989 they actually scrubbed the column with toothbrushes to clean the facade.

It is truly an honor to represent Oregon's 1st Congressional District, and I am proud to stand with Astorians as they celebrate this beacon of our shared past.

RECOGNIZING THE HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION OF COLONEL JAMES
"JIM" CHALKLEY

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel James "Jim" Chalkley, Retired, on his nomination and induction into the United States Army Transportation Corps Hall of Fame at Fort Lee, Virginia on July 27, 2026. The Transportation Corps Hall of Fame honors those whose careers exemplify the highest standards of service, leadership, and lasting contribution to Army operations. Few officers have had the breadth of impact, depth of experience, or the lasting influence that Colonel Chalkley has demonstrated throughout his career. Today, I'd like to honor his lifetime of service extending across several continents, conflicts and generations of soldiers.

Colonel Jim Chalkley's decorated career reflects over two decades of exceptional leadership and dedication to the United States Army. A graduate of the esteemed Virginia Military Institute, Jim embodies a lifelong commitment to professional education. Among other schooling, he earned his master's degree in Logistics Systems Management at Florida Institute of Technology and studied National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Navy War College.

Over the course of his military service, Jim refined his expertise in transportation, deployment operations, personnel management and