

and CEO of the Community Foundation of Henderson County, marking more than two decades of extraordinary and selfless service to the people of Hendersonville.

Mr. Benson earned his master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and has devoted his life's work to public and nonprofit service since 1977. His commitment to strengthening communities led him to Henderson County through his role with the Foundation for the Carolinas, where he served as Senior Vice President of Community Affiliates, supporting a broad region stretching from Blowing Rock, North Carolina, to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

During his remarkable tenure at CFHC, Mr. Benson helped triple the foundation's core assets and ensured those resources were invested directly back into the community. He built an exceptional professional staff and sustained a board of directors whose leadership has been central to the foundation's success. Under his guidance, new nonprofit organizations were launched, key mergers strengthened collaboration across Western North Carolina, and the foundation emerged as a driving force in empowering and uplifting the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Benson's career defined by vision, compassion, and unwavering dedication to the people of Henderson County and the State of North Carolina. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I extend my deepest gratitude to McCray and offer my heartfelt best wishes as he enters a well-earned and fulfilling retirement.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF SUMMIT FIRE CHIEF ERIC EVERS

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Summit Fire Chief Eric Evers, who has served the Summit Fire Department with distinction for an extraordinary 38 years. Chief Evers' steadfast dedication, leadership, and commitment to the safety and well-being of Summit residents are worthy of the highest commendation.

Chief Evers began his journey with the department as a volunteer firefighter in 1987, quickly rising through the ranks to become a career firefighter in 1990. Over the years, he served in multiple command roles, including Lieutenant, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief, and Summit Fire Official, culminating in his appointment as Fire Chief in 2015. Throughout his tenure, Chief Evers consistently demonstrated professionalism, courage, and a steadfast focus on public safety.

Chief Evers' impact is evident in the collaborative partnerships forged with the Summit Police Department, Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad, and numerous local, county, state, and federal agencies. Chief Evers played an integral role in leading emergency operations and ensuring residents remained informed about fire safety. As Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and Operations Chief for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Memorial Weekend, he brought national recognition to Summit's commitment to excellence.

Chief Evers leaves behind a legacy defined by significant achievements. Among these, his work to prioritize staffing, expand the department by hiring additional firefighters, and champion the completion of Summit's new, state-of-the-art fire station are especially notable. The new facility, equipped with advanced decontamination systems, enhanced training areas, and upgraded living spaces, stands as a testament to Chief Evers' vision and determination to protect both firefighters and Summit residents.

Throughout his career, Chief Evers received multiple valor awards, reflecting his unwavering dedication and heroism. His leadership inspired those around him and set a standard for bravery, professionalism, and service that will resonate throughout the community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Eric Evers on a well-earned retirement. We extend our best wishes for continued success and happiness in the years ahead. Summit is safer, stronger, and better because of Chief Evers' remarkable leadership and steadfast commitment to public service.

HONORING KRISHNI RYLAND

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Ms. Krishni Ryland as she celebrates a remarkable season of achievement marked by three significant milestones: earning a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Secondary Education, publishing her first book, and beginning her teaching career as a Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education educator.

After faithfully serving our nation for 20 years in the United States Army, Ms. Ryland retired from military service and embarked upon a new journey centered on education, faith, and service to others. Her commitment to personal growth and lifelong learning is evident in her impressive academic accomplishments. Most recently, she entered a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Secondary Education from Liberty University. Prior to this achievement, she earned a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in Secondary Education from Liberty University. Prior to this achievement, she earned bachelor's degrees in Business Administration and Religion, demonstrating her dedication to both professional excellence and spiritual development.

In addition to completing her master's degree, Ms. Ryland has become a published author with the release of her book, *Did God Really Say That? Unlearning What We Thought Was Scripture*. Through this work, she encourages readers to deepen their understanding of biblical teachings and challenges them to examine commonly held beliefs through the lens of Scripture. Continuing her mission of service, Ms. Ryland will begin her teaching career in the fall of 2026 as a Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education educator. In this role, she will have the opportunity to inspire, mentor, and equip the next generation of leaders and professionals. Her transition from military service to the class-

room reflects her enduring commitment to empowering others and strengthening communities through education.

Ms. Ryland is also the founder of Speak Life Outreach Ministries, a nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging, uplifting, and transforming lives through faith-based outreach and biblical teaching. Through her ministry, she has touched countless individuals by sharing messages of hope, purpose, and spiritual growth.

A proud daughter of John and Shirley Meeks of Yazoo City, Mississippi, Ms. Ryland's accomplishments are a testament to the values of faith, perseverance, service, and dedication instilled in her throughout her life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join in congratulating Krishni Ryland on these extraordinary achievements and in celebrating her continued contributions to education, faith, and public service. Her life and work serve as an inspiration to all.

RECOGNIZING ADRIAN B. MCCLENNEY

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 pay tribute to Adrian B. McClenney, a breast cancer survivor and the founder and president of the Miami, Florida, Chapter of Sisters Network Incorporated.

Mrs. McClenney was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2011. During treatment and her search to find support, she learned about Sisters Network, Inc., a national African American breast cancer survivorship organization. Its mission is to address the needs particular to African American women, the underinsured and the underserved around the country; by directly getting the message out that we must "stop the silence" about breast cancer, so women can start betting the odds. Mrs. McClenney contacted the organization and was so moved by their support of her, that in 2012, she founded the Miami Chapter of Sisters Network. The organization has since provided a strong support mechanism for hundreds of women with breast cancer and survivors in South Florida.

Experts estimate that about one out of every eight women born today will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some time during her life. The strongest risk factor for breast cancer is age. A woman's risk of developing this disease increases as she gets older. However, thanks to the work Mrs. McClenney is doing and improvements in cancer treatment and early detection, millions of women and thousands of men are surviving breast cancer today.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the United States, other than skin cancer. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer. The disease occurs almost entirely in women, but men can get it, too. Today, there are more than 2.9 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

I am honored to recognize Adrian B. McClenney, a breast cancer survivor and the founder and president of the Miami Chapter of Sisters Network, for her dedication and commitment to our community and fight against breast cancer.

RECOGNIZING OLIVIA BRISCOE,
CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNER

HON. ERIN HOUCHIN

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkably talented young artist, Olivia Briscoe, a senior at Salem High School, for winning first place in the 2026 Congressional Art Competition for Indiana's 9th Congressional District.

Each spring, Members of Congress sponsor the Congressional Art Competition to encourage and celebrate the artistic talents of high school students across the country. The competition provides young artists with the opportunity to showcase their work while representing their home districts on a national stage.

Olivia's winning acrylic painting, *Teal Flowers*, stood out for its exceptional detail and creativity, in recognition of her achievement, her artwork will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol alongside winning pieces from congressional districts across the Nation. Her painting is also featured on the House of Representatives' Congressional Art Competition website, where it can be viewed by people across the country.

This accomplishment not only reflects Olivia's talent and dedication, but also the support and encouragement of her teachers, family, and the Salem High School community.

I congratulate Olivia on her outstanding achievement. I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors, and I thank her for representing Indiana's 9th Congressional District with creativity and excellence.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS.
LULA HATCHER

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Mrs. Lula Hatcher, who passed away on July 3, 2026, at the age of 93.

Mrs. Hatcher was born on December 17, 1932, in Selma, Alabama, to the late Mr. Will, Sr. and Mrs. Lannie Travis.

Mrs. Hatcher was a respected entrepreneur, community leader, and lifelong resident of Selma, Alabama. Best known as the owner and matriarch of Lannie's Bar-B-Q Spot, she dedicated her life to preserving one of Alabama's most celebrated family-owned restaurants while serving her community with faith, generosity, and southern hospitality.

When she was just 12 years old, her mother, Lannie Travis, opened Lannie's Bar-B-Q Spot on Minter Avenue. From its humble beginnings, the restaurant grew into a local institution for its authentic barbecue, warm atmosphere, and commitment to treating every customer like family. Under Mrs. Hatcher's leadership, in 2025 the restaurant was named one of USA Today's Restaurants of the Year, being the only Alabama restaurant to earn the distinction that year.

Beyond her accomplishments in business, Mrs. Hatcher was admired for her unwavering Christian faith, compassionate spirit, and commitment to the people of Selma, Alabama, where she served as a mentor and role model and encouraged others to pursue their dreams while remaining grounded in faith and service.

Perhaps her greatest legacy is the example she set—an example of tradition rooted in love, perseverance, and excellence.

Mrs. Lula Hatcher is preceded in death by her beloved parents, Mr. Will, Sr. and Mrs. Lannie Travis; her husband, Charlie Hatcher, Sr.; and her daughter, Carolyn Hickman (Phillip). She is survived by her loving family, including her seven children; her nineteen grandchildren; her twenty-five great-grandchildren; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbors, and friends.

On a personal note, I have fond memories of enjoying Lannie's Bar-B-Q from a very young age. I cannot remember a single Sewell family gathering that was not catered by Lannie's, and whenever my aunts and uncles came to visit Selma, they never left without coolers packed with its famous barbecue to take home. Mrs. Lula Hatcher and her family created more than a beloved restaurant—they built a place where everyone felt welcome and the spirit of our community shined through. Her warmth, faith, and dedication to preserving her family's legacy made Lannie's a Selma institution and a source of pride for us all. I will always be grateful for the joy and fellowship she brought to our family, and I know her legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and all who were shaped by her compassion and hospitality. May they find comfort in knowing that her legacy endures—in the delicious food she served, in the shining example she set, and in the countless lives she touched.

On behalf of Alabama's 7th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the extraordinary life and legacy of Mrs. Lula Hatcher for her culinary contributions to the City of Selma, the State of Alabama, and our Nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
PATRICK KNIGHT

HON. TIM WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 2026

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Patrick Knight of Hillsdale as the Veteran of the Month for July and honor him for his sacrifice and service on behalf of our great Nation.

Patrick Knight served in the United States Navy as a Search and Rescue Helicopter Crewman from 1966 to 1970. During his time in active duty, Patrick served with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron One (HC-1) at NAS Imperial Beach in California and overseas with Helicopter Combat Support Squadron Seven (HC-7), the Navy's premier Combat Search and Rescue unit that is also known as the "Sea Devils." While with HC-7, he assisted in rescuing pilots that had been shot down in Vietnam and the surrounding waters, helping his squadron to rescue approximately 150 pilots.

For his contributions to our Nation, Patrick was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Combat Search and Rescue Air Wings. In 1971, the Sea Devils were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation by President Richard Nixon for their extraordinary heroism while performing rescue operations under adverse conditions.

Following his time in the military, Patrick continued to serve others, spending 32 years as a member of the Riverview Police Force and recently retiring as Chief of Police. Patrick has also remained active in the local veteran community, joining the VFW Post 1136 in Wyandotte. Currently, he serves on the Board for the Emergency Telephone Services for Hillsdale County and the Board of the Hillsdale Senior Center.

Patrick Knight's remarkable dedication to serving others and his leadership in our local communities inspire us all. May others know of my high regard for Patrick, as well as my deep gratitude for his lasting contributions to the country we love.

RECOGNIZING THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 13, 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.

In continuous pursuit of innovation in the arts, the museum is currently undergoing 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.