

this House from 2009 until 2025. He was recognized by the University of Virginia's Center for Effective Lawmaking "as being the most effective member of the House in advancing policies pertaining to government operations" during the 117th Congress, and was also cited as "being the most effective lawmaker in the House overall" among all Members, both Republican and Democrat.

Gerry understood that the best way to get things done for his community and for his country was to work with people from both sides of the aisle. We served on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, where I was proud to partner with him on postal reform issues, and on legislation protecting the rights of our federal workforce.

We both had the honor of serving as president of the U.S. Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. There was no stronger champion in our NATO Parliamentary Assembly than Gerry Connolly for the importance of NATO, which he called "the indispensable bulwark for democracy itself."

Gerry's impact on the Commonwealth of Virginia and his country will not soon be forgotten. His legacy will live on for years to come, both in his work and in the many lives he touched. I was honored to serve with him in this chamber, and it was an even greater honor to call him my friend.

It is appropriate that we honor Gerry in the community he served by naming this post office as a tribute to that all he did to make his Congressional district, and our Nation, a better place. May his life and memory be a blessing to us all.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING RHONDA M. SMITH

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Rhonda M. Smith, a breast cancer survivor and the founder of The Breast Cancer Partner, an organization that focuses on breast cancer recovery through health and wellness and is located in Miami, Florida.

Ms. Smith was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2008. In 2010, she opened Breast Cancer Partner. Its mission is to empower breast cancer survivors to live strong, healthy and balanced lives by providing support, information, tools and resources to shepherd them through recovery. Breast Cancer Partner strives to show breast cancer survivors the paths to an integrated health and wellness lifestyle so that they can recover, restore and re-energize themselves after treatment.

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 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 Rhonda M. Smith, a breast cancer survivor and founder of Breast Cancer Partner, for her dedication and commitment to our community.

HONORING THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN MISSISSIPPI HIGH- WAY PATROL TROOPERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very pivotal time within the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

In 1970, Willie L. Morrow and Jerome Mangum, with representation from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, filed suit against the leadership of the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. The case, *Morrow v. Crisler*, challenged the Department's long-standing exclusion of African Americans from employment as Mississippi Highway Patrol troopers. At the time, the Mississippi Highway Patrol, established in 1939, had never employed a Black state trooper.

Evidence presented in federal court demonstrated a pattern and practice of racial discrimination in hiring and recruitment. The court found that African Americans had effectively been excluded from trooper positions. Federal judges ordered the Department of Public Safety to eliminate discriminatory practices and adopt affirmative measures to recruit qualified Black applicants.

Following court orders issued in 1971, by early 1972, the Department began actively recruiting African-American candidates for positions within the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Recruitment efforts were directed toward Black communities, colleges, military veterans, and other qualified applicants throughout Mississippi. Applications from African-American candidates were processed for admission into the next Highway Patrol training class.

On June 18, 1972, five African-American men entered Cadet Class No. 12 at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in Pearl, Mississippi, to train as Mississippi Highway Patrol troopers. Their admission followed federal court rulings in *Morrow v. Crisler*, which challenged discriminatory hiring practices within the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. The class was the first in the history of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, organized in 1939, to include African-American cadets. Of the five men admitted—James Cheeks, Walter C. Crosby, Sr., Arthur Marble, Richard "R.O." Williams, and Lewis Younger, Jr.—three graduated on September 1, 1972: Walter C. Crosby, Sr., R.O. Williams, and Lewis Younger, Jr. They became the first African-American troopers in the history of the Mississippi Highway Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the integration of the Mississippi Highway Patrol and the men who helped pave the path for future generations of African-American officers.

CONGRATULATING COACH DAN GRAYBILL ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MANHEIM TOWNSHIP SWIMMING TEAM

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and recognize Coach Dan Graybill on his retirement after 40 years of dedication to the Manheim Township High School Blue Streaks swimming team.

Coach Dan Graybill led the Blue Streaks boys' program for 40 years and guided the girls' program for 39 years. Under his leadership as head coach, the girls team secured 15 Lancaster-Lebanon League team titles, while the boys team earned 11 titles. Together, the Blue Streaks amassed a total of 31 section crowns during his tenure.

Beyond his work at Manheim Township High School, Coach Graybill also contributed to the sport through coaching positions at the Lancaster YMCA and Overlook, a team in the Lancaster County Summer Swim League.

Coach Graybill has left a profound impact on the Manheim Township swimming community. I congratulate Dan Graybill on his well-deserved retirement, and I wish him the best wherever the future may lead him.

RECOGNIZING THE HAITIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th district, of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor South Florida's Haitian Heritage Museum. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation:

Whereas, the Haitian Heritage Museum is an integral part of our community, embodying and preserving Haiti's rich culture and heritage;

Whereas, the Haitian Heritage Museum has given Haitian art a permanent and prominent place in South Florida's art community;

Whereas, the Haitian Heritage Museum's scholarship program provides deserving students an opportunity to further their education and perfect their talent as artists;

Whereas, the Haitian Heritage Museum will honor community leaders who have made extraordinary contributions to Haitian heritage and culture during its 9th Annual Discover Haiti Gala on Saturday, February 23rd;

Whereas, the Haitian Heritage Museum will present the Father Jean Juste Visionary Award, named after the visionary leader who advocated for human rights and social justice on behalf of Haiti's poor;

Whereas, Father Jean Juste is widely regarded as the "Godfather" of Miami's Little Haiti community; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida:

Recognize the tremendous contributions of the Haitian Heritage Museum to South Florida:

Affirm the importance of promoting and preserving Haitian art and culture; and

Honor the recipients of the Father Jean Juste Visionary Award.

CELEBRATING SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL'S 2025 TO 2026 FRESHMAN BASKETBALL SEASONS

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the South Lakes High School Freshmen Girls and Boys Basketball teams for their remarkable achievements during the 2025 to 2026 basketball season.

The South Lakes Freshmen Girls Basketball team completed an outstanding season with a record of 14–2, setting a new milestone as the winningest freshmen girls team in South Lakes High School history. Their success reflects the passion, teamwork, and determination displayed by these student-athletes throughout the season.

The South Lakes Freshmen Boys Basketball team also delivered an extraordinary season, finishing with an impressive record of 15–0–1. The team's undefeated season will stand as a benchmark for future South Lakes teams.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the leadership, mentorship, and dedication of the coaches and volunteers who support these teams. I commend the entire coaching staff, parents, and the many individuals who give their time and energy to help these young athletes develop their skills, build character, and learn the value of teamwork.

The success of these teams is a source of great pride for South Lakes High School and the broader Fairfax community. Their achievements serve as an inspiration to fellow students and demonstrate the value of hard work and perseverance.

I am honored to represent a district that is home to such exceptional student-athletes. I commend them for the dedication they have displayed to their school and teams. Their accomplishments both on and off the court continue to make our district proud.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the South Lakes High School Freshmen Boys and Girls Basketball teams on their exceptional 2025 to 2026 seasons and in wishing these talented student-athletes continued success in the years ahead, both on and off the basketball court.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARK MILUM

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career and 22 years of dedicated service of Mr. Mark Milum, City Manager of Los Fresnos, Texas.

As a native Texan, Mr. Milum has devoted his life to improving the lives of those in our

community. Although he did not begin his career in public service, he demonstrated an early commitment to serving others by volunteering at his children's school. This passion for giving back ultimately led him to a career in local government, where he has distinguished himself as a thoughtful and principled leader.

When Los Fresnos needed honesty and integrity in the Office of City Manager, Mr. Milum answered the call to serve. Under his leadership, the City strengthened its emergency fund, invested in critical infrastructure, and paved neighborhood streets.

Mr. Milum has long understood that true public service transcends effective governance. Throughout his career, he has modeled what it means to genuinely listen to constituents, champion their needs, and serve with unwavering dedication. When a group of young residents came to his office with a request to build a public place for children to skateboard, he rose to the challenge. Thanks to his leadership, the city constructed the Los Fresnos Skate Park.

Mr. Milum has strengthened the City of Los Fresnos, improved the quality of life for its residents, and left a lasting impact on the community he proudly serves.

Mr. Speaker, the 34th Congressional District of Texas extends its deepest gratitude to Mr. Milum for his service. He is a source of pride and inspiration for all South Texans, and I am honored to recognize his contributions. We wish him a happy retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONNIE CLERY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life and legacy of Connie Clery, a courageous advocate for campus safety, victims' rights, and public accountability, who passed away on June 23, 2026, at the age of 95.

Born Constance Benjamin Clery, Connie devoted her life to serving others with compassion, resilience, and determination. While she will always be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, she is equally remembered as a national leader whose advocacy reshaped how institutions of higher education respond to campus crime and student safety.

Connie's journey as an advocate began following the heartbreaking loss of her daughter, Jeanne Clery, who was tragically murdered in her residence hall at Lehigh University in 1986. Rather than allowing grief to define her family, Connie transformed this unimaginable loss into action. Alongside her husband, Howard Clery, she dedicated herself to ensuring that no other family would endure the same preventable tragedy.

Together, the Clery family founded Security on Campus Inc., now known as the Clery Center, an organization committed to promoting safer college campuses through education, prevention, and advocacy. Under Connie's leadership, the organization became a national voice for transparency, empowering students and families with information while

encouraging colleges and universities to prioritize campus safety.

Connie's perseverance helped inspire the passage of the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, known as the Clery Act. This landmark federal law requires colleges and universities receiving federal financial aid to publicly disclose campus crime statistics and issue timely warnings about threats to campus communities. This Act fundamentally changed the safety and transparency of higher education, ensuring safety for millions of students.

Throughout the years, Connie remained a steadfast advocate for victims' rights and institutional accountability. Alongside her husband Howard, she helped advance more than 30 state and federal laws designed to improve campus safety and strengthen victims' rights. Even after stepping down from leading the organization she co-founded, Connie remained deeply engaged as Chairwoman Emerita of the Clery Center, continuing to mentor advocates and inspire institutions committed to creating safer learning environments. Her actions and courage continue to fuel a national movement that has protected countless lives and families.

Above all, Connie was a devoted wife to Howard Clery, Jr. For 51 years, a loving mother to Howard, III, Benjamin, and Jeanne, and a proud grandmother and friend. While her work became known across the Nation, her family remained at the heart of everything she did, and Connie's memory continued to inspire her life's mission.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Connie Clery for her extraordinary service to students and the countless lives that will never know the danger she worked so tirelessly to prevent. May her legacy continue to inspire others to serve with integrity, compassion, and purpose.

HONORING THE LATE VITER JUSTE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District, of the great state of Florida. I rise today to recognize and honor the late Haitian activist, pioneer, community leader and businessman, Viter Juste.

Mr. Juste was active in the development of Miami's "Little Haiti" community and helped thousands of Haitian immigrants assimilate into life in South Florida in the early 80s. As Haitian immigrants arrived and settled into South Florida, in the 80s, Juste fought against discrimination against Haitians and was successful in getting a reversal of a Miami-Dade School Board decision that prohibited the enrollment of undocumented Haitian students. He also started an adult-education program, where he taught English to new arrivals.

Mr. Juste is one of the founders and was the first chairmen of the Haitian-American Community Association of Dade, which was one of the first social-service agencies dedicated to the Haitian community.

As a businessman, Mr. Juste established one of the first Haitian-owned businesses in the community. He opened a French-and-Creole-Language records and bookstore called