

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

Les Cousins Records and Books. He went on to publish a French-language 12-page weekly newspaper.

He was born December 15, 1924, in La Gonave, an island off mainland Haiti. Mr. Juste arrived in South Florida with his wife and children in 1973, after spending a few years in New York.

Please join me in honoring the late Viter Juste for his commitment, dedication and many years of distinguished service in Miami-Dade County.

HONORING THE AWARDEES OF THE ENGLISH EMPOWERMENT CENTER'S 64TH RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the English Empowerment Center (EEC) and to honor the volunteers, instructors, students, community partners, and others who will be recognized at the 64th EEC Recognition Ceremony.

The mission of EEC is to teach adults the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English in order to empower them to participate more fully and confidently in their communities and in society as a whole. EEC serves low-literacy and limited English language proficient adults with a selection of low-cost, moderately intensive courses to help them transition into the workforce or other educational opportunities.

EEC provides the crucial first steps of language and literacy proficiency for workplace, citizenship, and community integration to help adults make measurable improvements in their lives. This past year, they have served over 2,000 adult learners with the help of over 600 volunteers who gave over 27,000 hours of service.

Each year EEC recognizes students and members of the community who have contributed their time, energy, and resources to achieving the mission of EEC. EEC will also award the prestigious Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship, and the inaugural Gerry E. Connolly Empowerment Award. I include in the RECORD the following names of the 2026 EEC honorees:

Community Partners: Amazon; Bailey's Crossroads/Culmore Place-Based Initiative; Dulmore United Methodist Church.

Volunteers of the Year: Chris Axarlis; Mary Pat Paris; Marie Tibor.

Student Speakers: Henry Herrera; Fatima Pena.

Patricia M. Donnelly Merit Scholarship Recipient: Patricia Ramirez Sejas.

Gerry E. Connolly Empowerment Award: John V. Thomas.

Also, I include in the RECORD the names of the volunteers who are celebrating service anniversaries with EEC.

Volunteer Service Anniversaries:

25 years: Jan Auerbach, and Susan Stillman.

20 years: Nancy Newman, and Naomi Witherspoon.

15 years: Banhi Bhattacharya, Michael Boito, and Janna Unterzuber.

10 years: Christopher Axarlis, Janet Barsy, Paul Cantrell, Elena Gonzalez, Diane Jensen,

William Nye, Susan Rose, Karen Rosenthal, Jean Samuel, Sharon Steen, and Gail Zimmerman.

5 years: Brian Brooks, Debby Chrisensen, Robin DeRosa, Leo Dillon, Lisa Esler, Teresa Fralish, Alan Kadrofske, Jill Martin, Mary Anne McDonald, Megann Mielke, Alana Morton, Emma Refuerzo, Elizabeth Stone, CK Tong, and Sari Warren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the English Empowerment Center and in thanking and congratulating each of the honorees of the 64th EEC Recognition Ceremony. I wish all of them great success in their future endeavors.

POLICYMAKERS MUST PRIORITIZE MATERNAL HEALTH AND PRO- TECT MEDICAID

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that transcends politics because it is about life itself—protecting mothers, protecting babies, and protecting the healthcare that millions of American families rely on through Medicaid.

Medicaid is not an abstract government program. It is the foundation of maternal and child health in America. It finances more than 42 percent of all births nationwide, half of the births in rural communities, and approximately 60 percent of births to women of color. In Illinois alone, Medicaid covers more than 50 percent of the births in the state and insures approximately 3.4 million people, including nearly 1.5 million children.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 5.7 million Americans will lose Medicaid coverage because of new policies that impose burdensome administrative requirements and unnecessary barriers to maintaining health insurance. These are not simply numbers; they represent pregnant mothers, newborn babies, working parents, seniors, and children who may lose access to essential medical care.

For Illinois, the consequences are especially severe. Our state is projected to lose approximately \$57 billion in federal Medicaid funding over the next decade, with estimates reaching approximately \$48 billion in direct Medicaid reductions. These losses will force hospitals and health care providers across our state to make impossible decisions, leading to workforce reductions, cuts to obstetric and mental health services, and even hospital closures.

The impact on maternal health cannot be overstated.

Medicaid guarantees coverage for low-income women throughout pregnancy and currently supports prenatal care, labor and delivery, and postpartum care. The damage of Medicaid cuts begins even before pregnancy. Women without health insurance are less likely to receive preventive care or treatment for chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, or substance use disorders before becoming pregnant, increasing the likelihood of pregnancy complications and poor birth outcomes.

Medicaid cuts will also devastate hospitals serving rural and underserved communities, thereby making labor and delivery more dangerous. More than 140 labor and delivery units are projected to close, forcing expectant moth-

ers to travel farther for care and increasing the risk of pregnancy complications. Already, labor and delivery units, women's health clinics, emergency departments, and birth centers have closed nationwide, leaving thousands of families without nearby maternal care.

Today, 48 States and the District of Columbia have extended postpartum Medicaid coverage to twelve months because policymakers on both sides of the aisle recognized a simple truth: childbirth does not end when a mother leaves the hospital. The first year after birth is one of the most medically-vulnerable periods in a woman's life. It is during this time that mothers receive treatment for postpartum depression, anxiety, hypertension, substance use disorder, and other potentially life-threatening complications. Research shows that Medicaid reimbursement for maternal health screenings significantly increases the detection, diagnosis, and treatment of postpartum mental health conditions. Weakening Medicaid threatens these life-saving services by shifting additional costs to states that may be forced to reduce postpartum coverage, eliminate doula services, home visiting programs, and integrated mental health care that have already demonstrated measurable success.

Perhaps nowhere are these dangers more apparent than in Black maternal health. Black women remain two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications than white women, while Black infants experience mortality rates twice as high as their white counterparts. These unacceptable disparities persist because structural inequities continue to limit access to quality care before, during, and after pregnancy. For communities like many of those I proudly represent in Chicago, these cuts will deepen existing disparities instead of addressing them. Policies that reduce access to care do not eliminate disparities, they widen them.

Congress should be strengthening maternal health, not dismantling it. Healthy mothers build healthy families, and healthy families build stronger communities. Every mother deserves a safe pregnancy, every baby deserves a healthy start, and every family deserves access to quality health care regardless of income or zip code.

I urge my colleagues to reject these harmful Medicaid cuts and to protect maternal health, expand postpartum care, reduce Black maternal health disparities, and ensure that every family has the opportunity to thrive. The health of our Nation begins with the health of our mothers.

HONORING PAMELA BURNETT

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 Pamela Burnett, a breast cancer survivor and the founder of The Beautiful Gate Cancer Support & Resource Center in Miami, Florida.

Ms. Burnett was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002. In 2005, she started holding support group meetings out of her home for African-Americans battling cancer. A year later, in 2006, Ms. Burnett opened the doors to the Beautiful Gate Cancer Support & Resource