

States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, commend the late Elder Ruben Alexander Cox, Jr. for his dedication to his family, his church, our youth and our community.

HONORING MATTHEW GIBSON
AUSTIN

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Matthew Gibson Austin of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, an exemplar of academic excellence, athletic achievement, and community service whose work has earned recognition at the local, state, and national levels.

With a perfect ACT score and an outstanding academic record, he has been admitted to Northwestern University to continue his studies. Active in organizations such as Future Business Leaders of America, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and the National Honor Society, Mr. Austin made a lasting contribution to his school and community. He is also a proud Eagle Scout.

Matthew's athletic achievements include being named Boys Tennis Athlete of the Year in Southeast Missouri and receiving the 2025 Bank of Missouri Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. Through his exceptional leadership and individual performance, he earned the role of captain of the Notre Dame Regional tennis team.

Through the French Honor Society, Matthew helped raise funds to sponsor a child's education in Haiti. He received the Notre Dame Regional Christian Service Award and the Congressional Award Program Gold Medal after volunteering more than 400 hours with local organizations. Mr. Austin's commitment to service reflects a rare combination of compassion and humility.

On behalf of the 8th Congressional District of Missouri, I commend Matthew Gibson Austin for his pursuit of excellence, his breadth of achievement, and his dedication to others, which together set a powerful example for students across the Nation.

HONORING THE CITY OF COLONIAL
HEIGHTS ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Colonial Heights, Virginia, as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary and to congratulate its residents, businesses, and community leaders on a century of remarkable history, growth, and service.

Officially incorporated as an independent city in 1926, Colonial Heights has grown from a small community into a thriving city that proudly serves as an economic, cultural, and civic anchor for Virginia's Tri-Cities region. Throughout the past century, the city has demonstrated resilience and a steadfast com-

mitment to preserving its history while embracing opportunities for the future.

Colonial Heights has long been distinguished by the dedication of its public servants, educators, first responders, military families, small businesses, faith communities, and countless volunteers whose service has strengthened the fabric of the community. Their contributions have helped create a city known for its strong neighborhoods, excellent schools, vibrant local economy and exceptional quality of life.

As part of this historic milestone, the City is hosting Americana Fest, a signature centennial celebration that highlights the music, craftsmanship, culture, and traditions that have shaped Colonial Heights over the last one hundred years. By bringing together residents and visitors from across the Commonwealth, the celebration not only honors the city's rich heritage but also showcases the local businesses, artists, and organizations that continue to drive its success.

One hundred years is a testament to the vision, perseverance, and community spirit of generations of residents who have built a city worthy of pride and admiration. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the City of Colonial Heights on its Centennial Anniversary and in wishing its residents continued prosperity, opportunity and success for the next one hundred years.

COMMENDING HUGH BERESFORD
"BERES" HAMMOND

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend legendary Reggae superstar Hugh Beresford "Beres" Hammond, known to his legions of fans and the music world as Beres Hammond, and I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Mr. Hammond's distinctive, romantic and soulful style, which was influenced by American soul and jazz music, and native Jamaican artists he grew up listening to in Annotto Bay, Jamaica, has garnered him international notoriety and acclaim;

Whereas, Mr. Hammond began singing and performing in local talent shows in the 1970's, and his career spanned more than 40 years, resulting in numerous hit singles and albums that have topped music charts.

Whereas, Mr. Hammond formed his own record label, Harmony Records, in 1985 and released his album "Make a Song," which had two Jamaican chart-toppers and set the stage for his success and recognition in the Reggae music industry;

Whereas, Mr. Hammond's 2012 album "One Love, One Life," topped the Billboard Reggae Albums chart. He has performed with iconic musicians, including Maxi Priest, Wyclef Jean, Buju Banton and Big Youth; 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, commend Hugh Beresford "Beres" Hammond for his talent and dedication to his art, and for his contributions the music industry.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF EVA CHARLOTTE HAHN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Eva Charlotte Hahn, whose extraordinary journey embodied courage, resilience, faith, and an unwavering love of freedom.

Born in 1938 in Jihlava, Czechoslovakia, Eva's childhood was shaped by the hardships of World War II and the rise of communism. She witnessed the brutality of Nazi occupation, including her father's imprisonment for helping Jewish friends, and later fled her homeland with her family to escape communist oppression. After spending time in a refugee camp in Austria, she emigrated to Australia before ultimately making her home in the United States.

Eva's determination carried her through every chapter of her life. She excelled academically, contributed to the production of Australia's first Salk polio vaccine, and later worked in medical research after settling in San Antonio, Texas. She married Dr. H. Herbert Hahn, II, and together they served abroad while he practiced medicine with the United States Foreign Service before making Temple, Texas, their permanent home.

A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Eva dedicated herself to her family and community. She volunteered in local schools and civic organizations, believing deeply in the principles of liberty, education, and personal responsibility. She was also a successful businesswoman, an avid reader, a gifted storyteller, and a gracious hostess whose warmth and generosity touched everyone she met.

Eva is survived by her four children, fifteen grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, her sister, and many extended family members who will carry forward her legacy of faith, perseverance, and patriotism.

Eva Hahn's remarkable life stands as a testament to the enduring strength of the human spirit. It is my honor to recognize her extraordinary legacy, one year after her passing, and to extend my deepest sympathies to her family and all who mourn her absence.

HONORING COMMANDER
CHRISTOPHER RAGSDALE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Commander Christopher Ragsdale on the occasion of his taking command of the USS *Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee*. This milestone is a testament to his professionalism and unyielding commitment to serving our Nation. Advancing to this level of leadership reflects both the trust placed in him by the United States Navy and the exceptional standard he has continuously demonstrated throughout his career.

During his time serving as my Department of Defense Legislative Fellow, Commander

Ragsdale distinguished himself as a professional of the highest caliber. Commander Ragsdale has judgement that is unmatched and a commitment to excellence that is second to none. These traits made him an invaluable asset to our team. Whether navigating complex national security challenges or offering thoughtful insight on matters affecting our Armed Forces, Commander Ragsdale consistently exhibited a level of competence and character that set him apart.

It is no surprise to those of us who had the privilege of working alongside him that he has now taken command of the USS *Lenah Sutcliffe Higbee*. This achievement reflects not only his incredible abilities, but also his unbreakable dedication to serving our Nation.

While we miss his presence in our office, we take extraordinary pride in knowing that he will continue to do great things wherever he goes. The United States Navy, and our country, are stronger because of leaders like Commander Ragsdale. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing Commander Christopher Ragsdale for his service to the Nation. I pray for his continued success in all that lies ahead.

COMMENDING KAREN ARONOWITZ

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Karen Aronowitz, and I include in the Record the following proclamation in her honor:

Whereas, Karen Aronowitz served three terms as President of United Teachers of Dade (UTD) and represented 32,000 teachers and education support professionals in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools system;

Whereas, Mrs. Aronowitz led successful reform initiatives, including a secondary school reform model for senior high schools and a School Improvement Zone for underperforming schools within Miami-Dade County, which served as a national model for improved school performance;

Whereas, Mrs. Aronowitz created UTD's Education Summit which brings educational leaders and social issue activists to Miami-Dade in interactive sessions with teachers;

Whereas, Mrs. Aronowitz established the UTD Teaching Excellence Foundation to promote professional development opportunities for educators;

Whereas, Mrs. Aronowitz serves on the American Federation of Teachers Executive Council, is a member of AFT's Human Rights and Community Relations Committee and Democracy Committee, serves on the United Way of Miami-Dade Public Policy Committee and is a member of the Miami-Chapter of the NAACP;

Whereas, Mrs. Aronowitz has been featured in The Wall Street Journal for her work in career research with high school students, is a multiple year honoree in Who's Who Among American Teachers, is a recipient of the Jewish Museum of Florida's Breaking the Glass Ceiling Award, received the Monty Trainer Chairman's Award in 2011 for Speaking UP for Public Education and honored in 2012 by the Bethune-Cookman University Miami-Dade Alumni Association as a "Trail Blazer for Education;" 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, commend Karen Aronowitz for her dedication and commitment to our students, our teachers, our parents and our schools.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CORPORAL DONALD RAY SIMONS

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Corporal Donald Ray Simons, a United States Army veteran who served his Nation with honor and who will be laid to rest with the dignity and military honors he earned through his faithful service.

Corporal Simons answered the call to serve by enlisting in the United States Army, where he served honorably from July 18, 1958, to July 17, 1961. During his time in uniform, he faithfully carried out his responsibilities with professionalism and integrity, embodying the courage and commitment that defines America's Soldiers. His service reflects the enduring values of honor, duty, and patriotism that have long distinguished the men and women of the United States Army.

While we may not know every chapter of Corporal Simons' life, we know this: when his country called, he answered. He wore the uniform with pride, served honorably, and earned the enduring gratitude of the Nation he defended.

Today, his name stands as testimony, so that future generations may know his service and remember his name. No veteran's sacrifice should fade from our memory. On behalf of the people of Texas's 31st Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude and respect for his service and his sacrifice.

May Corporal Donald Ray Simons rest in eternal peace, and may his memory continue to inspire all who cherish the freedoms secured by those who serve.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF H. ANDREW SCHWARTZ

HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of H. Andrew Schwartz of Bethesda, Maryland, a beloved husband, father, and one of Washington's most respected communications professionals, who passed away on July 16, 2025, at the age of 56.

Andrew lived, above all, for his family. He was the devoted husband of Amy Goldberg and the loving father of his three sons, Benjamin, Eli, and Daniel. The son of Joseph Schwartz and Shirley Schwartz, Andrew poured himself into the lives of those he loved. He was a proud and deeply involved father during his sons' years at Sidwell Friends School, where he took special joy in Sidwell football, and he leaves a remarkable and lasting legacy through the beautiful lives of his children.

A proud graduate of Tulane University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science and formed lifelong bonds through Zeta Beta Tau, Andrew went on to earn a master's degree in broadcast journalism and public policy from American University. A lifelong learner with a genuine passion for education, he built a distinguished career at the intersection of journalism, public policy, and communications. His writing appeared in the "Washington Post", the "Washington Times", and other national newspapers and magazines, and he spent two decades as Chief Communications Officer at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, where he shaped how vital ideas reached the American public and the world.

Yet, Andrew's greatest professional legacy may well be the hundreds of young people he mentored and the countless causes to which he generously gave his time and talents. He believed in lifting others up, and he did so with characteristic energy and warmth.

Those who knew Andrew remember a man who was larger than life, vivacious, passionate, and possessed of a joyous laugh that filled every room he entered. He was happiest near the water, whether swimming laps or standing at the ocean's edge. He carried a deep love of New Orleans and its food, culture, and music, and he shared a devotion to the Baltimore Ravens and Orioles with his father and his sons. His story was far too short, but it was, by every measure, an extraordinary one.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of H. Andrew Schwartz, in celebrating a life defined by family, service, and boundless spirit, and in extending our deepest condolences to his wife, Amy, his sons, Benjamin, Eli, and Daniel, and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

HONORING MINISTER GARY RANGE

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Minister Gary Range, a lifelong community activist and spiritual leader.

Minister Range is a member of 93rd Street Community Baptist Church and has spent his life working to improving the quality of life for the less fortunate and spreading the word of God.

Minister Range is also known for reaching out to those in our community who have lost their way in life and their faith. He brings hope and inspiration by sharing through his motivational words and vast knowledge of the Bible.

Public service is a way of life for Minister Range, who carries on family legacy of service begun by his late mother, M. Athalie Range, and his father, the late Oscar L. Range. Mrs. Range was the first African American to serve as a Miami City Commissioner and the first African American and woman to head a Florida state agency, the Department of Community Affairs. Minister Range's father was also a well-known community activist, mortician, and entrepreneur.

Minister Range is a proud father of seven children. He graduated from Miami Jackson