

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

Senior High School and continued his education at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) and the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science.

Please join me in honoring Minister Gary Range for his commitment, dedication and service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DONALD "DON" KENT

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Donald "Don" Kent, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, Marine, entrepreneur, artist, and faithful servant whose life reflected the values of faith, family, and service.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Don lived a life defined by integrity and hard work. He proudly served our Nation in the United States Marine Corps, where he developed the discipline and resilience that guided him throughout his life. Following his military service, he attended the University of Maryland before embarking on a successful career as an entrepreneur.

Don also dedicated 25 years to his passion for art. Alongside his beloved wife, Jo Ann, he traveled the country sharing his artwork and touching countless lives through his creativity, warmth, and kindness. I am proud to have his paintings hanging in my home and office, daily reminders of his talent and of our friendship. Known for his quick wit and generous spirit, Don lived out his faith through humility, compassion, and service to others.

Our families grew close through our sons, who have been best friends for years, and I came to know Don not only as a talented artist but as a man of remarkable warmth and character. His friendship was a gift to me and my family, and his loss is felt deeply.

Don Kent's legacy of service, generosity, and unwavering love will live on through his family, friends, and all who were blessed to know him. I extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones as they honor his remarkable life.

HONORING THE LOUDOUN NATURE CONSERVATION PROJECT

HON. SUHAS SUBRAMANYAM

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding community organization in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, the Loudoun Nature Conservation Project (LNCP). The LNCP was founded and is led by students in our community. Its mission is to protect and clean up the local environment, as well as engage in education and advocacy efforts. Since its inception in 2024, the LNCP has grown to over 270 active members, who have partnered with 17 parks and schools, and restored more than 3,100 acres of local land.

In addition to doing hands-on volunteer restoration work throughout Loudoun County, the

LNCP is dedicated to exploring how our local environment has been changed overtime. For example, the LNCP has published three research studies on local water quality changes in Loudoun County, including in the Potomac River basin.

It is very inspiring to see the dedication and time the LNCP has put into building a community passionate about preserving our nature. As a dad of two young girls, I want to make sure that future generations can continue to enjoy the great outdoors. I am grateful to LNCP for inspiring young people to care about the environment and thank them for all the hard work they do.

RECOGNIZING MR. CLIFFORD CHESSON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District, of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. Clifford Chesson a longtime Miami Dade County Public Schools Employee. I include in the RECORD the following proclamation in his honor:

Whereas, Mr. Chesson was an employee of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools security team for many years;

Whereas, Mr. Chesson was a strong advocate for the safety and well-being of Miami-Dade Public Schools' students, faculty and staff, administrators, school board members, employees, volunteers and vendor;

Whereas, Mr. Chesson performed his duties with dedication, passion and integrity;

Whereas, Mr. Chesson stood up for what he believed in and answered the call to serve our country in 1978, by joining the United States Army, where he served 20 years, and another five years in Army Reserve;

Whereas, Mr. Chesson dedicated his life to public service and offered inspiration to many;

Whereas, Mr. Chesson was a man of strong faith in God, a dedicated husband to his wife Barbara, and daughters Camille, Shanika Chesson-Ivy and Frederica Parks; 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 and honor the late Mr. Clifford Chesson for his commitment to his family, our community and our country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SERGEANT JAMES DAWSON

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 Sergeant James Dawson, a proud World War II veteran whose courage, selflessness, and devotion to our Nation exemplified the highest ideals of American service.

Born in Higgins, Texas, on March 21, 1921, Sergeant James Dawson answered the call to serve during World War II with unwavering dedication. His extraordinary bravery earned him the World War II Victory Medal after he

courageously saved the lives of two fellow servicemembers, placing their safety above his own in the face of grave danger. Sergeant James Dawson embodied what it means to be an American. Through his sacrifice, courage, and steadfast commitment to others, he demonstrated the values that have long defined our Nation's Greatest Generation. His actions serve as a lasting reminder of the selfless service and heroism displayed by so many who fought to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

On behalf of the 31st Congressional District of Texas, I extend my deepest gratitude for Sergeant James Dawson's faithful service to our country and honor the remarkable life he lived. May his legacy of courage, patriotism, and sacrifice continue to inspire generations to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE DICKINSON

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 life of Charlie Dickinson, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and Vietnam War veteran.

Mr. Dickinson was born in Lebanon, Missouri, in 1950, but at age thirteen, he moved to his family's dairy farm in Hartville. Shortly after he graduated high school in 1968, he was drafted into the United States Army where he served as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division in the Vietnam War. Following his service, he returned to Lebanon where he worked at Lowe Boats until his retirement.

Mr. Dickinson was a pillar in the Hartville community where he served as a member of the Elk Creek Baptist Church, an avid supporter of Hartville High School sports and academic programs, and an active member of numerous local organizations. He was also a proud third baseman for the community softball team which he joined in the 1970s.

Outside of his local community, Mr. Dickinson also dedicated much of his life to serving his fellow veterans through his involvement in organizations such as the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). He consistently advocated for veterans, helped them obtain their service benefits, and would often be found placing flags on hundreds of graves each year to honor the legacy of his fellow soldiers. He was a champion for veterans' rights in not only Jefferson City, but also in Washington, D.C., for which he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the VFW.

It is my privilege to recognize Mr. Dickinson, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and service to our state and country.

RECOGNIZING MR. JOHNNIE L. WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida,