

Chosen as the Seal of our Nation by our Founding Fathers, the Bald Eagle is a strong and independent, majestic and bold, noble and steadfast creature that embodies the greatest qualities of our Nation. But, not unlike our own history, the Bald Eagle has faced perils of its own.

In the late 1800s, there were 100,000 nesting bald eagles in the contiguous United States, but due to harmful pesticides, illegal hunting, and habitat loss, that number had dropped to only 400 breeding pairs by 1960. As recently as 1978, the Bald Eagle stood on the verge of extinction.

However, due to the collective efforts of American scientists, the enactment of federal laws, including protection under the Endangered Species Act, and most importantly, public support from the American people for the bird's protection, the Bald Eagle has experienced a renaissance.

By 1996, the Bald Eagle's classification was changed from endangered to threatened. The Bald Eagle was officially removed from the Endangered Species List in 2007. There are now 71,467 active nests in the United States, including 964 in Ohio across 87 of its 88 counties.

In many ways, the story of the Bald Eagle mirrors the story of our Nation. From the trials of the Revolutionary War and Civil War to the sacrifices of two World Wars, the tensions of the Cold War, and the challenges of the War on Terror, our Nation has repeatedly faced grave dangers, persevered through adversity, and emerged stronger than before.

So, as we celebrate the birth of the eaglets America and Independence and commemorate 250 years of our Republic, we are reminded that resilience, courage, and renewal remain among our greatest national virtues. And just as these two young eaglets have taken flight over Dayton, so too, does the United States stand ready to soar confidently into its next 250 years.

RECOGNIZING JAMIE BAIN HEDGES ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES R. WALKINSHAW

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. WALKINSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jamie Bain Hedges upon her retirement as General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of Fairfax Water after 37 years of dedicated service to Northern Virginia.

Jamie began her career with Fairfax Water as an engineer and steadily rose through the organization. She became Director of Planning and Engineering in 2006, Deputy General Manager in 2019, and General Manager and Chief Executive Officer in 2021. Her career reflects both a deep knowledge of the region's water system and a longstanding commitment to public service.

Under Jamie's leadership, Fairfax Water has continued providing dependable, high-quality water service to communities across Northern Virginia. Today, the utility serves approximately 2.2 million people in the region. Her steady guidance helped the organization respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, severe weather, and the integration of the City of

Fairfax and City of Falls Church water systems.

Jamie also understood that reliable water service depends on thoughtful planning and continued investment in the infrastructure that supports it. Throughout her tenure, she helped position Fairfax Water to meet the region's current needs while preparing for future challenges involving water supply, system maintenance, and environmental protection.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jamie Bain Hedges on her retirement and in thanking her for 37 years of service to Fairfax Water and the people of Northern Virginia. Her leadership has left the organization well prepared to continue serving our community for generations to come.

RECOGNIZING LARHONDA LAMPKIN SHARP

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to LaRhonda Lampkin Sharp, a breast cancer survivor, and co-founder and treasurer of the Miami, Florida, Chapter of Sisters Network Incorporated.

Mrs. Sharp was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007. In 2011, she and four other breast cancer survivors founded the Miami Chapter of 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 getting the message out that "we must stop the silence about breast cancer so women can start beating the odds." The organization has since provided a strong support group for hundreds of women with breast cancer, as well as 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. Sharp 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 LaRhonda Lampkin Sharp, a breast cancer survivor and co-founder and treasure of the Miami Chapter of Sisters Network, for her dedication and commitment to our community and the fight against breast cancer.

HONORING THE PINECREST HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pinecrest High School women's lacrosse team on an undefeated state championship season.

On Friday, May 29, 2026, Head Coach Jacqueline Page and the Pinecrest High School women's lacrosse team capped off a perfect 22-0 season by winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Girls Lacrosse 8A State Championship.

This tremendous achievement is a testament to the team's unity, discipline, and outstanding work ethic. Winning a state championship is a remarkable accomplishment and doing so with an undefeated record makes this achievement even more extraordinary.

I know I speak for our entire community in offering my most heartfelt congratulations to the exceptional young women of Pinecrest High School's women's lacrosse team. These young leaders have made our community proud.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today celebrating the Pinecrest High School women's lacrosse team's remarkable undefeated state championship season.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN WOOD

HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Mr. John Wood's lifetime of service to the people of Brownsville, Texas, and the Rio Grande Valley.

For decades, Mr. Wood has dedicated his time to strengthening our community through both civic engagement and public service. Before entering elected office, Mr. Wood served as chair of the local chapters of the American Red Cross and United Way, Chairman of the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. His dedication to improving the lives of those around him laid the foundation for a distinguished career in public service.

As a Brownsville City Commissioner and Cameron County Commissioner, Mr. Wood earned the trust of his constituents by remaining accessible and attentive to their needs. He successfully secured state funding to rebuild roads, install a new drainage system, lay sidewalks, and install streetlights, delivering critical infrastructure improvements that enhanced neighborhoods and improved the quality of life for countless families.

As a Commissioner on the Brownsville Navigation District Board, Mr. Wood continued to lead with integrity and vision. He advanced reforms to the port's employee retirement fund and raised the minimum wage. Commissioner Wood also advocated for the deepening of the

Port, resulting in major investments, diversifying the economy, and transforming the region for generations to come. Throughout his tenure, he championed responsible stewardship and long-term investment in one of South Texas's most important economic engines.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Texas' 34th Congressional District, I extend my deepest gratitude to Mr. John Wood and his decades of service. His leadership has strengthened the Brownsville community and expanded economic opportunity throughout the Rio Grande Valley. It is leaders like him that continue to define the spirit of integrity and service of South Texas, and for that, we are forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING FELICIA
WEATHERSPOON

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Felicia Weatherspoon, a breast cancer survivor and co-founder of the Tenaciously Pink Cancer Support Group at Trinity Church, in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Ms. Weatherspoon was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996. After more than a decade of activism and advocacy for breast cancer awareness, Ms. Weatherspoon helped found the Tenaciously Pink Cancer Support Group, in May of 2012. The support group meets every fourth Sunday. Its mission is to provide spiritual one-on-one support to people undergoing treatment for cancer and comfort the patients, care givers, and their families. Tenaciously Pink also hopes to enable cancer patients/survivors and supporters to look beyond the diagnoses to cope with treatments and resume living life to its fullest.

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 Ms. Weatherspoon 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 Felicia Weatherspoon, a breast cancer survivor and co-founder of The Tenaciously Pink Support Groups, for her dedication and commitment to our community and the fight against breast cancer.

HONORING THE 90TH
ANNIVERSARY OF VASA PARK

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th anniversary of Vasa Park in Mount Olive, New Jersey. In 1936 the Vasa Order of America established Vasa Park to serve as a retirement community for Scandinavian immigrants across the Morris County area. Today, the park has grown as a meeting place for descendants of the original founders to come with their families and vacation, experiencing the nature of Mount Olive.

The park includes 31 cabins for families to rent and stay, and a Cultural Center for social events and commemoration of Scandinavian ancestry. Families descending from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland make up the over 1,000 members who return to the park year after year.

For 90 years, Vasa Park has fostered the Scandinavian presence in Morris County, serving as a lasting symbol of culture and tradition. Throughout its history, the park has upheld the sense of community that is so important to the citizens of Mount Olive and Morris County as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in commemorating Vasa Park's 90th Anniversary, as they continue to uphold Scandinavian tradition in Mount Olive, New Jersey.

STOP INSIDER TRADING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7008, the so-called Stop Insider Trading Act.

Let me be clear, this bill is not a stock trading ban. It does nothing to stop Members of Congress from profiting from their positions, and it says nothing about the President's own outrageous self-enrichment while in office.

I was elected to represent my constituents' interests in Congress, not to abuse my position for personal profit. That is why I do not own or trade individual stocks, securities, commodities, or futures. Unfortunately, not all of my colleagues share that view, which is why Congress must act now to ban stock trading for Members of Congress.

In 2012, I voted for the STOCK Act, which brought transparency to Members' stock trades. But transparency is not deterrence. The penalty for violating the STOCK Act is just \$200. That is why I have routinely cosponsored real solutions not just for Congress, but for the executive branch as well. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 6731, the Restore Trust in Government Act. This bill would prohibit Presidents, Vice Presidents, Members of Congress, and their dependent children, spouses, and trustees from owning and trading individual stocks. This is the comprehensive reform that Congress should consider today to prohibit Members from profiting from their positions.

Instead, we are considering H.R. 7008, which will do something else entirely. H.R. 7008 makes it harder for Americans to vote due to Republican maneuvering that inserts the SAVE America Act in this bill. This provision will pile new burdens on voters and election officials, override even the strictest state voter ID laws by tossing out documents like student IDs and hunting licenses, and effectively ends voting by mail. The bill is timed to take effect 90 days after enactment, landing implementation squarely in the middle of the midterm election after voting has already begun.

Trust in Congress is at an all-time low. We will not rebuild it with a bill that dodges real stock trading reform while making it harder for Americans to vote. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill and instead work to institute real accountability.

HONORING COLONEL K. "CHAD"
MIXON FOR HIS SERVICE AS
GARRISON COMMANDER OF FORT
BRAGG AND FOR HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel K. "Chad" Mixon for his distinguished service as Garrison Commander of Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and to thank him for more than three decades of service to our Nation.

Colonel Mixon began his military career in 1993 as an enlisted infantryman at Fort Bragg and was commissioned as a transportation officer in 2000. Throughout his career, he served in numerous leadership positions within the 82nd Airborne Division, United States Army Special Operations Command, United States Army Forces Command, and Joint Special Operations Command. He completed seven operational deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Colonel Mixon assumed command of the Fort Bragg Garrison on June 27, 2024. During his tenure, he led one of the Army's largest and most complex installations through a period of significant transition while remaining focused on military readiness, responsible stewardship, and the well-being of the soldiers, families, civilians, and veterans who depend upon Fort Bragg.

Under his leadership, Fort Bragg advanced critical improvements to installation infrastructure, housing, transportation, childcare, dining, and community services. Colonel Mixon strengthened partnerships with the State of North Carolina, local communities, and private stakeholders to move key installation priorities forward. I was proud to work alongside him to secure funding for a new child development center and support other efforts aimed at improving readiness and quality of life across Fort Bragg. His leadership also helped return hundreds of homes to service, improve roads and transportation, and restore access to North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles services on the installation.

Colonel Mixon's tenure was defined by steady leadership, open communication, and a commitment to practical solutions. Through his