

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. McClenney 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 Adrian B. McClenney, a breast cancer survivor and co-founder and president of the Miami Chapter of Sisters Network, for her dedication and commitment to our community and the fight against breast cancer.

CELEBRATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF LEON MEDICAL CENTERS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate one of South Florida's most prestigious healthcare institutions, Leon Medical Centers, on the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and the Leon family, whose dedication and commitment to service have had a generational impact on families across our community.

For three decades, Leon Medical Centers has stood as a symbol of innovation and compassionate care. Founded on August 3, 1996, by Benjamin Leon, Jr., Leon Medical Centers was created with a powerful mission: to ensure that members of South Florida's growing community could receive high-quality healthcare with dignity and accessibility. What began as one medical center in Miami has grown into one of Florida's most distinguished healthcare organizations, now serving more than 40,000 patients throughout the region.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Leon Medical Centers is deeply rooted in the vision and perseverance of the Leon family. Benjamin Leon, Jr. arrived in the United States from Cuba in 1961 at just 16 years old, joining his father, Benjamin Leon, Sr., who had established Clinica Cuba to provide essential medical care to Miami's growing Cuban community. At a time when language barriers and an overwhelmed healthcare system created significant obstacles to care, Clinica Cuba became a lifeline for thousands of families seeking medical attention.

Together, Benjamin Leon, Sr. and Benjamin Leon, Jr. continued expanding access to healthcare, establishing Clinica Asociacion Cubana in 1970 and helping introduce managed care to Florida. In 1973, their efforts led to the organization receiving the first HMO li-

cense in the state of Florida, marking a historic advancement in healthcare delivery and setting the foundation for the future of Leon Medical Centers. In 1996, Benjamin Leon, Jr. opened the first Leon Medical Centers location at 27th Avenue and Southwest First street in Miami. Less than a year later, the organization expanded with a second location in Westchester, beginning a period of tremendous growth that would eventually lead to six regional facilities across Miami-Dade County.

Today, Leon Medical Centers represents the future of integrated healthcare. Its nearly one million square foot, state-of-the-art facility provides patients with access to advanced screening technology, comprehensive dental services, physical therapy, and numerous medical specialties, often within a single location. This innovative approach has made healthcare more convenient and accessible while reflecting

Benjamin Leon, Jr.'s belief that patients should receive care in an environment where they feel valued and treated like family.

Leon Medical Centers' impact extends far beyond the walls of its facilities. The organization has earned national recognition for its contributions to healthcare, receiving honors from organizations including the South Florida Business Journal, Health Affairs, Florida International University, and the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society. Leon remains the only managed care organization partnered with Florida International University to provide a specialized teaching curriculum focused on genetic care demonstrating its continued commitment to advancing medical education and innovation.

Beyond its philanthropic contributions, Leon Medical Centers has built strong partnerships with leading hospitals throughout Miami-Dade, including Kendall Regional and Hialeah Hospital, further expanding access to quality care and strengthening the healthcare network in our community. As Leon Medical Centers celebrates its 30th anniversary, we recognize the lasting impact of Benjamin Leon, Jr., the Leon family, and the thousands of physicians, nurses, and healthcare professionals who carry forward this mission. Their work, commitment to service, and compassion represent the best of South Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to celebrate Leon Medical Centers on this important milestone and to commend everyone who has contributed to its historic legacy. From its humble beginnings servicing Miami's Cuban community to its role as a leader in modern healthcare, Leon Medical Centers remains a testament to what can be achieved through perseverance and dedication to service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, during Roll Call Vote No. 276 on H.R. 8800, I mistakenly recorded my vote as AYE when I should have voted NO.

HONORING THE UNION PINES
SOFTBALL 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 accomplishments of the 2026 Union Pines softball team following their outstanding performance and recognition at the Carolina Pines Athletic Conference postseason awards.

Senior catcher Kileigh Cameron finished her season as the state home run leader with 19 home runs and led the state 6A class in RBIs with 61 RBIs. Kileigh was named the conference player of the year.

Junior pitcher Kaitlyn Blue pitched 116 innings and boasted a 1.57 ERA paired with 118 strikeouts. Kaitlyn was named conference pitcher of the year.

Seniors Allie Bauer, Emily Auman, Serena McCutchen, Maddie Stein and sophomores Caidence Crabtree and Abbie Tyner were also named all-conference from Union Pines for their extraordinary seasons.

I also want to recognize Head Coach Brian Blue, who was named the Carolina Pines Athletic Conference Coach of the Year. In his first season he led the team to a 28-4 overall record and its first conference title since 2013.

I am proud to represent such a talented, dedicated, and hardworking group of student-athletes and coaches. Winning a conference championship is a remarkable accomplishment. I am inspired by their achievements and glad to see them being recognized for them.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today honoring the Union Pines softball team.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA IVORY

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 Andrea Ivory, a breast cancer survivor and the founder of The Women's Breast Health Initiative (WBHI) in Hialeah, Florida.

Ms. Ivory was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2006. While she was fortunate that her breast cancer was detected early and that she had insurance and access to doctors, she knew that many other women did not. To better the odds for at-risk women with fewer resources, she founded the Women's Breast Health Initiative in 2008. WBHI is an outreach organization dedicated to educating women about the importance of breast health and providing them with the resources to beat the disease.

Since it was founded, WBHI has delivered literature to 50,000 households and by use of a mammography van, the organization has provided free breast cancer screening for thirteen hundred women. For her contributions to the fight against breast cancer, Ms. Ivory was named Cable News Network's (CNN) Hero, in 2009. CNN "Heroes" is a tribute to ordinary people changing the world.

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. Ivory 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 Andrea Ivory, a breast cancer survivor and founder of The Women's Breast Health Initiative, for her dedication and commitment to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOANN SMITH

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable Bronxite, educator, writer, wife, mother, sister, aunt, and friend, Joann Smith.

Joann passed away on July 17, 2026, at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, following a courageous battle with cancer. She leaves behind a legacy defined not by her illness, but by her bravery, her kindness, her creativity, and her love for others.

Born in the Bronx in 1956, Joann grew up on the Grand Concourse and was educated in the Bronx Catholic school system. She went on to earn degrees from Iona College, the College of New Rochelle, and Lehman College before pursuing her Master of Fine Arts at Sarah Lawrence College.

Joann spent fifteen years as an educator, teaching in both Catholic and New York City public schools. She later devoted her life to writing, teaching aspiring writers, and expanding access to education. She served as a professor, program director, creative director, editor, and mentor.

She fulfilled her lifelong dream of becoming a published author, writing the historical novel *When I Was Boudicca* and, in 2021, she published her acclaimed short story collection, *A Heaven of the Choosing*.

But Joann's greatest joy was her family. She and her husband, Robert Fanuzzi, celebrated thirty years of marriage this year. And in 2001, Joann and Robert traveled to China to adopt their daughter, Mia—a journey Joann considered the highlight of her life.

Joann also gave generously to others, volunteering with Girls Write Now to help young women prepare for college and find their voices.

The Bronx mourns with Robert, Mia, her siblings, nieces and nephews, and her many friends.

Joann's life was a testament to the power of courage, education, art, and love. Her stories will endure. Her students will carry her lessons forward. And all who knew her will carry her memory in their hearts.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Joann Smith.

May she rest in peace.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF LEE BERCAW

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable career and dedicated service of the City of Tampa Chief of Police Lee Bercaw. For more than 30 years in law enforcement, including three and a half years as Chief of Police, he has exemplified unwavering commitment, integrity, and excellence. His forward-thinking, consistent leadership and steadfast commitment to safety has lifted the City of Tampa and its citizens.

Chief Lee Bercaw is two-time alumnus of the University of South Florida, having earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminology in 1997 and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice Administration in 2012. In 2021, Bercaw also earned a Doctorate Degree in Criminal Justice with a specialization in Homeland Security from Saint Leo University.

Chief Lee Bercaw joined the Tampa Police Department in 1996 as a reserve officer and patrolled the streets of Tampa. He then served as a police officer for six years. Bercaw worked his way up in the department before being appointed as the Chief of Police by Mayor Jane Castor in 2023.

During his tenure, he implemented initiatives for advancing safety, fostering relationships and trust within the community. He will leave the Tampa Police Department as an advocate for community-oriented policing and leadership, stating, "teaching, mentoring and developing future leaders has always been among the most rewarding parts of my career, and I look forward to helping shape the next generation of criminal justice professionals through research experience, integrity and public service."

Bercaw's career has been rooted in mentorship and leadership and will only continue to flourish at the University of South Florida as an associate professor of instruction in the Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program. Chief Bercaw will officially retire on August 6, 2026.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the neighbors across the Tampa Bay community, I am proud to celebrate the selfless service of Chief Lee Bercaw at the Tampa Police Department. Chief Lee Bercaw is a shining example of engaging and leading the community with a culture of respect, safety and trust.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY PATRICIA ELLEN MALLEY

HON. JAKE ELLZEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Patricia Ellen Malley, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and woman of unwavering faith whose life was marked by kindness, compassion, and selfless devotion to her family.

Born in Crane, Texas, Patricia was raised with the values of faith, hard work, and love for others. She carried those principles throughout her life, touching the lives of all who knew her with her gentle spirit and quiet strength.

Patricia dedicated many years of faithful service to American Greetings, where she was admired for her dedication and warm personality. After retiring, she devoted herself to her greatest calling, which was her family. Whether preparing meals, traveling with loved ones, or simply opening her home to others, Patricia found joy in caring for those around her.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Stephen H. Malley; her brother, Tom Hightower; her children, Billy Don Bratton, Kerry Aalbers, and Stephen S. Malley; six grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and many extended family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Mike, Richard, and Jack Hightower; her sister, Linda Pearce; and her granddaughter, Bailey Bratton.

Mr. Speaker, Patricia Malley lived a life centered on faith, family, and service. Her love, grace, and steadfast example will continue to inspire those who knew her. It is my honor to recognize her life and extend my deepest condolences to her family and loved ones as they celebrate the legacy she leaves behind.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG LANDSMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 27, 2026

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, for personal reasons, I was unable to make one vote on July 22, 2026. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 276.

RECOGNIZING VICE MAYOR FELICIA M. BRUNSON

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 Vice Mayor Felicia M. Brunson, chairman of West Park Relay For Life, in West Park, Florida. Relay For Life is the main volunteer-driven cancer fundraising event of the American Cancer Society.

Vice Mayor Brunson lost her grandmother to breast cancer in 1996. In 2006 she formed West Park Relay For Life. Through community-based fundraising and little corporate sponsorship, West Park Relay For Life has raised more than \$150,000 in the fight against breast cancer.

In 2010, Vice Mayor Brunson was the driving force behind the City of West Park designating the third week in October as "Paint the City Pink Week."

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,